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# HOUSING REPLACES EYESORE

Report by Richard Guttridge

**THE trash mountain nightmare for people who have lived near a towering pile of rubbish in Brierley Hill for six years finally looks to be nearing an end.**

Plans are being submitted to build 94 flats on the site at Moor Street and have been recommended for approval by planning officers at Dudley Council.

It is the news that residents have long been waiting to hear after a frustrating battle to get the mountain of waste — which once reached 40ft in height — finally removed.

The eyesore pile of rubbish at the former

Rubbish pile at Moor Street

## Plea to Home Secretary on police station

THE front counter at Dudley Police Station has closed, leaving Dudley as the largest town in the country without a police station open to the public.

More than 2,200 signed a petition calling for the controversial closure not to happen but West Midlands Police bosses decided to go ahead anyway as part of plans to save £3 million.

Ian Austin, MP for Dudley North, has written to Home Secretary Theresa May urging her to offer West Midlands Police a fairer share of funding to keep stations like Dudley open to the public.

West Midlands Police announced in November that Dudley would be one of 27 police stations across the region to have their public front offices closed as part of cost-cutting measures. Front desks at Stourbridge, Halesowen, Tipton, and Wednesbury have already closed.

Mr Austin said: "I'm very disappointed but I'm determined to keep fighting for the station. I'm urging the Home Secretary to listen to the 2,200 people who are against this closure and want our region to get a fairer share of police funding."

## New law to tackle stray horse issue

NEW laws aimed at preventing the illegal grazing of horses or the animals being abandoned on public land have come into force.

As many as 3,000 horses are thought to be illegally 'fly-grazing' across the country and the Black Country has long been one of the areas badly affected.

During the past 12 months, a total of 100 horses have been rounded up from streets and fields across Dudley and Sandwell.

Changes to The Control of Horses Act 2015 are designed to ensure that horse owners who graze their animals without permission can now be dealt with more quickly and effectively.

The new law, which has been welcomed by the RSPCA, means that irresponsible owners can have their horses seized by the landowner and then sold or otherwise removed within just four days. They can also be charged for any damage to the land and for care of the horses.

In Dudley, 51 horses were collected between April 2014 and March this year. Hotspots include Fens Pool nature reserve, Pensnett, and land near Russells Hall estate.

Refuse Derived Limited site has plagued residents for years and in 2013 company director Robert McNaughton was jailed for failing to remove it.

A rubbish pile around 19ft high still remains 18 months on.

But in February, it was revealed that developer J and V Kelly had come forward with proposals to transform the site from the eyesore it has become over the last decade.

The company wants to create a development that would be separated into two blocks on the site. Green space and rows of trees also form part of the plans to tidy up and transform the land.

The agent acting on its behalf, Marson Rathbone Taylor Architects, said the development would rid the area of an 'appalling site' and 'replenish' the area.

### Signalled

A design and access statement submitted with the plans said: "The site has become under utilised allowing the waste pile to gradually become larger, causing a nuisance and health hazard to the site and local area.

Due to the misuse of the land, the pile of rubbish has caused disturbances to the local people and started a campaign to remove the rubbish.

"The appalling site has become a huge problem and needs to be removed, the Environmental Agency is now involved and the problem is acknowledged by the people responsible for the site."

Planning officers at Dudley Council have signalled that they are satisfied with the proposals and have advised councillors they should approve the application, which would bring the long-running saga over the rubbish pile to an end.

A final decision is due to be made by councillors on Monday.

## Flying the flag for Black Country Day



Black Country Mon at Dudley Castle with Black Country Day organisers Steve Edwards, Councillor Pete Lowe, Billy Spakemon and James Stevens

## Bostin' superhero

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's the Black Country's very own superhero.

Black Country Mon is launching this year's Black Country Festival, which is being held next month.

The mascot will be flying in to community events at the month-long festival created to celebrate Black Country Day on July 14.

Thousands of people got involved with the inaugural celebrations last year and now organisers are calling for people to get their Black Country flags on display in readiness for its return during July and August.

The black, white and red flag with its chain motif will be flying from landmark locations across the four Black Country boroughs, in-

cluding at Dudley Castle and Dudley Town Hall.

Dudley Zoo will also be joining in the fun by teaching Charlie, a blue and gold macaw to speak in Black Country dialect.

Writer and performer Billy Spakemon has penned a Fly the Flag song to encourage people to show their Black Country colours.

Billy, from Oldbury, said: "It was wonderful to see so many people of all ages celebrating the Black Country at last year's festival and we want to start building the excitement now for an even bigger celebration this year."

One of the main events of the festival will be held in Stone Street, Dudley on July 11.

## PROPERTY

### Homes to double on former industrial site

THE number of homes planned for part of a former industrial site in the Black Country will more than double in the latest stage of a huge development.

A total of 334 homes were planned for land off Tansey Green Road and Oak Lane in Pensnett. Included in this, there will be 44 homes built on one section of the site, instead of 20. Work has been ongoing since the original plans were approved in 2010. The new proposals are made up of 39 flats and five houses.

The plans will go before Dudley Council's planning committee on Monday.

## ZOO

### Life-sized animal sculptures at gate

LIFE-SIZED animal sculptures will greet visitors to Dudley Zoo under plans to revitalise the attraction's public entrance.

A total of five galvanised steel sculptures, created by Shropshire artist Tim Roper, will lead people into the zoo from a new car park which is nearing completion.

The sculptures include a 15ft giraffe, an orang utan, a tiger, a sea lion and a crocodile. The new entrance is due to be completed in September.

## PLANNING

### Jumping for joy as 15 jobs are created

AN INDOOR trampoline park will open in Stourbridge, creating 15 jobs, under plans.

Proposals for the complex, earmarked for a unit on Stourbridge Estate on Mill Race Lane have been submitted to Dudley Council.

There will be connected trampolines, covering an area measuring 5,381 sq ft, as well as a foam pit area. There will be a training trampoline with harness and a basket ball slam dunk zone. The plans also include a viewing area and cafe bar.

The centre would be open seven days a week under the proposals lodged by L & C Commercial Ltd.

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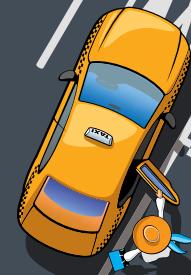
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# Jail for counterfeiter who used eBay

A FATHER-OF-THREE who ran a £250,000-a-year fake clothing racket from the garage of his Stourbridge home has been jailed for two years.

Ian Guy ignored repeated warnings to halt his massive counterfeit trade in which goods were sold throughout the world via the internet.

The 38-year-old's business Guy Tees, which ignored copyright on logos and images, cost major companies and a host of pop singers and bands over £500,000 in potential losses over two years by printing T-shirts and hoodies.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that the sales of the fake goods on eBay between 2010 to 2012 topped £250,000.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting, explained: "The operation was professional, well organised and extremely profitable, selling worldwide."

Guy started a legitimate enterprise in 2005 but five years later was using state-of-the-art copying equipment in his home that revealed counterfeiting equipment, hundreds of blank T-shirts, dozens of goods packaged for dispatch and tell-tale documents.

Analysis of computers disclosed 2,500 files of trade mark images.

2011 and again in July of the following year but he carried on regardless while claiming child tax credit and never declaring his true earnings to the authorities, maintained Mr Jackson.

A tip-off triggered an investigation by Dudley Trading Standards culminating in a September 2012 raid on Guy's home that revealed counterfeiting equipment, hundreds of blank T-shirts, dozens of goods packaged for dispatch and tell-tale documents.

Analysis of computers disclosed 2,500 files of trade mark images.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, said: "This was not fraudulent from the outset. He saw what others were doing on eBay."

"He has brought ruin on his family. There are no winners in this case."

Guy admitted seven specimen charges including knowingly carrying on a business for the fraudulent production, sale and supply of counterfeit goods and their packaging.

Guy was given six months to pay £130,000 or face a further two years in jail and pay £18,500 costs to Dudley Council.

# Man's arm was sliced in machete gang attack

A MAN'S arm was almost severed in an attack by a gang of eight men wielding bats and a machete in Quinton.

Police say the victim, a 24-year-old, is lucky to be alive after the brutal assault and remains in hospital being treated for his serious wounds.

Police made an appeal for witnesses this week and said they believe it was a targeted attack.

The man was in a property in Rilstone Road with a friend when a number of vehicles pulled up at around 6.15pm Tuesday (May 26).

Officers say he went outside to see what they wanted and was attacked by around eight men with bats and struck with a machete, seriously injuring his right arm and back.

An appeal has been launched by police who want to speak to any witnesses to the vicious attack.

## Ferocious

Detective Sergeant Reg Collett said: "This was a ferocious and violent attack and the man is lucky not to have been fatally injured. We believe this to be a targeted rather than random attack and we have carried out house to house and CCTV inquiries in the area."

"I would urge anyone who witnessed the assault or saw any vehicles driving at speed in the area around the time of the attack to contact me – all calls will be treated in the strictest confidence."

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

# Staff are moving out over car park

AROUND 100 workers will move out of offices based at Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park after complaints they were clogging up parking spaces.

Dudley Council agreed to find an alternative site for its staff after the Charity Commission launched an investigation. Around half of the workers based at the park will move to alternative site in Wordsley.

Since 200 Dudley Council children's services staff were transferred to a park building last year, campaigners have complained that they are using up parking spaces that should be available for the public.

Stourbridge MP Margot James launched a petition, signed by almost 450 people, calling for the council to find a long-term solution to the problem.

# Hear mandolins, guitars and banjos

GUITARS, banjos and mandolins will feature in a concert by the Midlands Fretted Orchestra.

Zing Go The Strings will take place at St James's Church in Wollaston on Saturday at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £8 on the door from Music Matters, Stourbridge.

# Pensioners are harassed by charity cash appeals



Harassed Dudley pensioner Betty Griffin with some of the begging letters from charities asking for money

An inquest heard that the 92-year-old war widow, who was one of Britain's longest serving poppy sellers, had felt under pressure from the number of requests she received from charities by phone and letter.

Mr and Mrs Cooke say they know what that feels like. They changed their telephone number three times in order to avoid such calls.

Retired dinner lady Betty said: "We got a block put on the line but it only lasted three months. The last time we changed our number we went ex-directory."

"This is what Olive was having to put up with, phone calls day and night. It's like they're entitled to a donation – it's pressure."

Sitting at the kitchen table in the couple's cosy semi-detached home, she showed the bizarre collection of gifts that are included in some of the letters, intended to guilt-trip re-

ipients into forking out more cash. These include free sticky labels bearing their names and address, thermal gloves, rosary beads, scarves, religious texts, a crucifix and baby socks.

The good-hearted pair have always given consideration to the charities they support, giving £5 monthly donations to the RSPCA and the Dogs Trust and making further one-off contributions during the year, mainly in response to crisis appeals, as well as sending money at Christmas on their six favourite charities.

Betty puts £1 a week in a box and divides it up at the end of the year

between the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Dogs Trust, Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity and the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Her husband, a retired metal worker, would like to give more of their modest income but Betty has had to put her foot down.

She says the number of charity requests they have received has escalated in the past year, with a pile six inches deep arriving every month.

"I could wallpaper our lounge with them. Every other post brings more," says the grandmother-of-two. "I've now got to the point of not reading them."

"My husband gets upset when

I say 'bin it'. You've got to harden yourself. You feel mean sometimes, and I'm not that way at all. It hurts."

"We've worked hard all our lives and we feel we're being squeezed."

They choose to keep more control over their money by sending cheques rather than signing up for Direct Debit payments. But they fear for other elderly people, especially those with dementia.

Betty said: "These are things that pensioners really are worried about, especially those living alone. Something needs to be done. The elderly do seem to be targeted with this sort of mail and even the Government can't seem to stop it."

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# League left facing the final whistle after century

THE Dudley and Cradley Heath Football League could be forced to fold after more than 100 years due to a shortage of teams.

The league had as many as 118 clubs in its 1980s heyday but only has eight teams signed up for next season.

Last season the league had 16 teams competing across two divisions. But bosses say only half that many have so far signed up for the 2015/16 season, starting in August.

General Secretary Bryan Sutton said: "We are hoping this will not be the end for the league altogether but you cannot play with less than eight teams. If one were to drop out that could be the end. Really we need 12 to be in a division. It would be very sad if the league was forced to fold. It would be very sad."

The league was formed in 1910 as the Cradley Heath and District Amateur Football League. Mr Sutton said in the 1980s up to 118 clubs were on its books. He said people staying out later on Saturday nights and dwindling sponsorship for teams could be behind the current struggle.

"Most sponsors used to be the local pub but a lot of those pubs have gone," he said. "If you ran a football team from pub and it changed landlord and he was not interested you could go down the road to another and he would support you. There seems to be a lack of interest in Sunday football now."

Any teams interested in joining the league can contact Mr Sutton on (01384) 295651.

## Former library set to become homes

STOURBRIDGE'S former town library and technical college will be converted into homes under plans poised to be given the go-ahead.

Developers have revealed their proposals for the Old Library, a Grade-II listed building, which stands on the corner of Hagley Road and Church Street, near the town's railway station.

It would see part of the ground floor, basement and the entire first and second floors converted into 23 apartments. Another part of the building is currently occupied by BBLB Corstorphine and Wright Architects.

Dudley Council planning officers have recommended the scheme is given the go-ahead. The final decision will be made at a meeting on Monday.

## Temporary lights during rock work

IMPROVEMENTS are being carried out beside a road in Stourbridge. Temporary traffic lights will be installed in Worcester Road for five days from Monday so safety netting can be installed on a rock face.

# Drink and drugs thug jailed for attack

A VICIOUS thug high on a cocktail of drink and drugs has been jailed for eight years for beating an innocent man to within an inch of his life in Stourbridge High Street.

Joshua Bernard attacked Callum Duncan after taking cocaine and drinking Champagne, brandy, 10 shots of sambuca and sharing two jugs of vodka and Red Bull with his girlfriend.

Bernard was out celebrating his 21st birthday with his partner when they began to argue outside a pub in Stourbridge High Street at 2am on Saturday 16. His girlfriend called out to Mr Duncan, who is in his 20s, for help and he began to cross the road to assist her but, before he could reach her, Bernard burst forward and felled him with a single punch.

The victim lay unconscious in the middle of the road while being punched, kicked and stamped on by the attacker until his girlfriend managed to pull him away. But as she tried to care for Mr Duncan, Bernard returned to kicked the defenceless victim in the head. A footprint was left on the victim's forehead.

The savage beating was witnessed by a monitor watching the CCTV feed, who alerted police. Bernard ran away as officers arrived but was caught after a chase.

Self-employed Mr Duncan, who had never met his attacker before, had his nose shattered and cheekbone fractured. He remembers nothing of the incident because of his injuries. The amount of drink

and drugs taken by Bernard meant he had no memory of the attack either. But when shown the CCTV footage by police, he confessed: "That was sick - beyond disgusting."

Mr Harpreet Sandhu, defending at Wolverhampton Crown Court this week, said: "He is still revolted by what he did." Bernard from Gower Street, All Saints, Wolverhampton, pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm with intent and was jailed for eight years by Judge Nicholas Webb. Judge Webb told him: "When he was lying unconscious on the ground, you approached again and unleashed an almighty kick that moved his head a considerable distance. It was a dreadful thing to see and could so easily have killed him."

# More than 130 jobs are axed in council's cull

## MORE than 130 jobs will be axed by Dudley Council in a bid to cut costs.

The council is looking to make 134 voluntary and two compulsory redundancies in 2015/16. Council leaders said they had worked to keep compulsory redundancies to a minimum.

It follows the loss of more than 700 posts during the previous four years.

The budget proposals for 2015/16 have included a shake-up of Dudley youth services to save £200,000. Burial fees have also been increased in a move, expected to bring in £520,000 in the next three years.

Other cost-cutting proposals include plans to turn off some street lights after midnight, saving £100,000 by 2018.

But proposals to axe free transport for children with special needs in Dudley were shelved following objections from concerned parents.

Council tax and council home rents have been frozen along with stall fees on Dudley Market.

The council needs to make savings of £22.1 million during the current financial year, rising to £24.3m in 2016/17 and £26.3million in 2017/18.

### Gap

But this will still leave a further gap of £32.7m which will need to be addressed by 2017/18.

Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe said: "Dudley has been impacted significantly as a result of national government cuts and as a result we have authorised 134 voluntary redundancies and two compulsory redundancies.

"We will continue to keep compulsory redundancies at a minimum - they will be our last resort whilst continuing to advocate for a fair funding deal for Dudley and local government."

As part of a shake-up of the youth services in the borough, 27 youth workers have left through voluntary redundancy and six people have been redeployed to other roles within the authority. The hours covered by the staff equate to six full-time roles.

Voluntary groups will be drafted in to help run some of the activities at the borough's seven youth centres. It will cost parents more to send children to Astley Burf Outdoor Adventure Centre in Worcestershire.

The council has slashed the number of director and assistant director posts from 22 to 11.

## D-reem date with Joey is cut short



Devoted fan Shanna Martin, from Worcestershire, takes a selfie with Joey Essex at the Merry Hill Centre

HE readily admits he's not the sharpest tool in the box but that didn't stop more than 500 fans turning out to meet reality TV star Joey Essex. The 24-year-old brought a touch of Essex to the Black Country for a book signing at Waterstones in Merry Hill.

He posed for pictures with fans who queued for almost five hours to meet the TOWIE star at the Brierley Hill centre - although many were disappointed when

he left after less than two hours. Fans had queued from as early as 7am on Friday to meet Joey and get signed copies of his latest book, *The Book of You* (and Me).

Joey, who has his own series

Educating Joey Essex, which sees the celebrity travelling the world to fill gaps in his knowledge, waved at the crowd before signing copies and posing with fans.

Joey superfan Shanna Martin, aged 16, said: "I ran straight up

to him and said 'what are you saying?' and he said it straight back to me. He was a really down to earth guy." The book, Joey's second after his biography *'Being Joey'*, includes doodle pages.

He only made it halfway through the queue before he had to leave. Alex Mason, of Waterstones, said: "Joey was here until just after 1pm but had to end the signing to attend other signings and a television appearance."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Nations unite for play at museum

ACTORS from Jamaica, Poland, India and Spain are uniting in a play at the Black Country Living Museum.

The White Shining Land by Black Country playwright David Calcutt tells the story of a group of travellers crossing an ocean, heading for a 'promised land' of their dreams, who tell stories about their homelands.

Mr Calcutt said: "We are working with a cast of community actors. Some are migrants who have come to the Midlands."

The play will be performed on Saturday at 12.30pm and 2.30pm.

### Two in custody facing charges

TWO men have appeared in court charged with drug and gun crimes.

Mohammed Ali, aged 28, and Ravinder Sohal, 25, were arrested in Halesowen last week. Both men appeared before Dudley magistrates on Friday. Ali, of no fixed address, is charged with possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and possession with intent to supply class A drugs. Sohal, of Cemetery Road, Smethwick, is also charged with the drugs offence.

Both have been remanded in custody and will appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on August 21.

### Ten thousand use care centre

MORE than 10,000 patients have been through the doors of Dudley's new urgent care centre since it opened three months ago, new figures show.

The centre, designed to take the pressure off Russell Hall Hospital's busy A&E department, replaced the walk-in centre at Holly Hall.

Chiefs estimate that almost 1,500 of the patients seen at the new centre would have previously turned up at A&E. Patients are assessed by a nurse at the centre.

### Factory team's charity cycling trip to seaside

CYCLISTS from a Dudley shop fitting and design business is taking part in a 134-mile charity cycle ride.

The Alan Nuttall employees will be cycling from their factory in Hall Street to Weston-super-Mare on June 27 to raise funds for Brain Tumour Research and Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

The charities were chosen by two colleagues who have been diagnosed with cancer and are undergoing treatment.

### Race for Life events

WOMEN have until Monday to register for the Race for Life at West Park in Wolverhampton. The 5k Cancer Research UK event is on Wednesday, June 10, at 7pm. To sign up visit www.raceforlife.org or call 0300 123 0770.

Similar events are at Himley Hall on July 12 at 10.30am and 2.30pm.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE reason we find the hacksaw tale so disturbing is that we like to think modern surgery is incredibly high-tech and intricate. In fact, during many bone operations, there is plenty of banging, sawing, drilling and screwing. A pal who is a surgeon once objected to my description of his job as middle-class plumbing. "There's a lot of carpentry, too," he insisted.

OUR changing language. Or, to be strictly accurate, the Germans' changing language which we might consider adopting. Our Teutonic cousins have started referring to youngsters using iPads and smartphones as Generation Kopf unten, the heads-down generation. Very apt.

SADLY, we will never know the answer to the most intriguing question in Ireland's referendum on gay marriage: how would the clergy of Craggy Island have voted? I suspect Father Ted would have been a No, Jack would have been a Yes and Dougal would have gone to the police station instead of the polling station.

SAME-sex marriage in Ireland came about not merely through lobbying by gays but on the secret votes of millions of heterosexuals who have nothing but goodwill towards the gay community. If nothing else the Irish referendum should provide food for thought for those gays who like to convince themselves that everybody hates them. On this showing, two-thirds of the population loves them.

ONE of the many great public services performed by this column was to draw your attention to Car Share (BBC1), the brilliant Peter Kay comedy based on the blissfully simple idea of a supermarket manager giving a member of his staff a lift to work each day. Six episodes were a delight and what a joy it was to see both Kay and his co-star Sian Gibson occasionally losing it in fits of laughter. But now there is talk of a second series. Oh, beware. The secret of great comedy is to leave the punters wanting more. That is what John Cleese and Connie Booth wisely did when they ended Fawlty Towers after just 13 episodes. At the other end of the scale was Last of the Summer Wine which just went on and on.

IT is hard to question the accepted theory of evolution without being cast as a religious nut. But how many of us rational atheists were fascinated by the display of insect-eating plants at Chelsea Flower Show? The best-known of these has trigger-hairs on its jaws. It ignores an insect touching one of the hairs once. But at the second touch, the jaws snap close. So what we have here is a plant that knows how to count. Using Darwin's theory of natural selection and survival of the fittest, how on earth did the Venus fly trap evolve?

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

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# Football pitch huge fee rise scrapped

A CONTROVERSIAL decision to hike fees for football pitch hire in Dudley borough by £200 is set to be scrapped.

Coaches and players were angered when councillors voted to increase pitch hire costs by up to 40 per cent for the 2015/16 season.

Senior adult teams were set to see fees rise from just over £500 per year to around £710 under the policy

which was ratified as part of the authority's annual budget.

But now Dudley Council has revised its charges for pitch hire. The fee for a season's hire is to be set at £518 – a much smaller increase.

Conservative opposition leader on the council, Councillor Patrick Harley helps run High Acres Football Club in the Dudley and Cradley Heath Football League. He said:

"Common sense has prevailed. It would have been lunacy and would have put teams out of existence to have had a 40 percent rise in fees. I think a two percent rise people can accept. They accept fees will inevitably rise to some extent."

"People will pay more if they have better facilities. The council is right, pitch fees are higher elsewhere, but the quality of the pitches is also

much, much better. They have neglected the fields here. We are working in the dark ages when it comes to sport in Dudley."

Consultation has taken place between the council and league representatives and football forums to explore the possibility of maintenance of pitches being transferred to clubs. The fees for 2015/16 are set to be rubber-stamped on Monday.

## Borough is supporting those with dementia

DUDLEY is bidding to become a dementia friendly town by pledging to support people with the condition.

The Dementia Friends initiative has been set up by the Alzheimers Society to increase awareness of the symptoms and how to help sufferers.

Leader of the council, Councillor Pete Lowe, deputy leader Councillor Judy Foster, chief executive Sarah Norman are among those to become 'Dementia Friends'. They will look at ways to improve the town to make it more accessible for sufferers.

Councillor Lowe said: "As a community council, we recognise our duty to respond to the needs of residents and are delighted to support this national campaign to help the increasing numbers of residents affected by dementia.

"If we all signed up to become a Dementia Friend then the borough would strengthen its reputation as a friendly, welcoming place in which to live and work."

"We all know someone who is either living with the condition or caring for someone in need."

"By becoming aware of the symptoms of dementia we can help more and more people continue to play an active and fulfilling part in their local community."

Earlier this year Dudley's dementia gateways staged a host of activities and events as part of national Dementia Awareness Week.

Visit [www.dementiafriends.org.uk](http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk) or [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk) for more information.

# Plans for two more care homes 'on hold'

By Andrew Turton

**MULTI-MILLION** pound plans to build two new independent care centres for older residents have been put on hold, partially due to funding.

A deal had been struck between care developer Midland Heart and Dudley Council to build five extra care housing facilities by 2015.

But only three have been built – on the Russells Hall estate in Dudley, at Coseley and in Cradley. Further schemes are now under review.

Midland Heart spokesman Richard Brooker said: "The plan is for five extra care facilities, however the project is currently 'on-hold'. This is so that we can jointly review both the level of demand and necessary funding availability."

Extra care housing is designed for people to live independently in their own homes while receiving tailored care and health services..

Dudley Council introduced extra care housing as it sought to close existing care homes, a plan which sparked controversy.

### Petition

More than 5,000 people signed a petition which led to council chiefs overturning plans to close New Bradley Hall care home in Kingswinford. The home is now run by a third party, Black Country Housing Group.

But other homes, such as Tiled House care home in Pensnett and Amblecote House, did close.

Dudley Council's lead councillor for housing, Councillor Gaye Partridge, said: "We intend to have an additional two extra care housing developments in the borough but are unable to give a timescale on this, as we first must identify sites which could be suitable for such schemes."

## Golden anniversary for estate residents



Joyce and Michael Harris, Sarah Bailey with son Harry and residents' chairman Jayne Pearson with residents RESIDENTS raised their glasses and toasted birthday celebrations as a Brierley Hill estate celebrated its 50th anniversary.

It was a chance for neighbours of past and present to rekindle lost friendships and share stories of their time in the Chapel Street area. The celebration afternoon was held at Briar Court, Hill Street.

Sarah Bailey, 30, has been living on the neighbouring St John's Court for over 14 years. She said: "It was really nice to go along and get to know the people that live in the area."

"I took my two-year-old son Harry with me and he absolutely loved it. I am hoping that it is something that I can show him when he is older to remind him where he

grew up. When I first moved here the area was nothing compared to what it is now, there used to be all sorts of problems. Now I am a lot happier here."

Jayne Pearson, 50, who has lived on the estate twice for a total of eight years, spoke about the differences she noticed in her time here.

"The difference between when I first moved here in 1989 up until now is amazing. Now it is very much a family orientated area. The amount of work that has been put in to making it a better place is fantastic."

The celebrations were organised by Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Association and Chapel Street Estate Tenants and Residents Association in conjunction with Dudley Council.

## Bedroom was damaged in fire

A SMOULDERING cigarette sparked a bedroom blaze at a Brierley Hill home.

Fire crews went to the property in Bittern Walk to find the 48-year-old householder outside and smoke pouring from a first floor front bedroom window.

Firefighters used breathing gear and a hose to tackle the blaze at the semi-detached premises on Thursday evening.

Watch Commander Brian Morris, of Stourbridge Fire Station, said: "The fire began accidentally. The lady thought she had put the cigarette out and it set fire to some clothing."

"The lady was in a state of shock but otherwise injured."

Firefighters from Brierley Hill and from Stourbridge attended the scene.

## Seconds out for the sounds of Summer

YOUNG Australian band 5 Seconds of Summer have sold out both of their gigs at Birmingham Barclaycard Arena tomorrow night (Friday) and Saturday. The four-piece outfit's self-titled debut album was released a year ago and reached no1 in 11 countries.

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# Does Brum really rank as hotspot to tourists?

WELL fancy that, I never knew I was so well travelled. But according to top travel publication the Rough Guide, I have seen 20 per cent of the world's greatest places to visit. The popular travel guide has published its list of the 10 greatest cities in the world, and I've been to two of them. And I suspect that everybody reading this will have been to at least one.

Now, I must confess I have never been to Johannesburg, Or Wellington in New Zealand, although it looks jolly nice in the pictures. Saita in Argentina? Sorry, nope. But hey, I've been to Malaga, and with its charming marble streets, pleasant climate, and superb art galleries, I would have no qualms about recommending it.

And then we come to the only British entry on the list – Birmingham.

Now I'm not one of those sneering Brummie bashers, who take great pleasure in running down Britain's second city at every possible opportunity. I don't think it is any better or any worse than most major cities, and there are some decent shops and restaurants. But does it really warrant a place, ahead of Winchester, Salisbury, or even Worcester? Don't Oxford, Truro or York deserve a mention?

I only go there a handful of times a year, and I only live a 20-minute train ride away. So why would an international tourist want to visit Brummagem?

Well according to the Rough Guide, food stalls and vintage shops are springing up all over Digbeth, and with New Street station reopening in 2015 after a much-needed renovation, now is the time to visit Birmingham."

So there we have it. Takeaways, second-hand shops and a new railway station. Forgive me, but I still think I prefer Florence.



FIFA chief Sepp Blatter always used to go on about the worldwide "football family." It's just a shame he never told us that the family was The Sopranos.



MIND you, I would have far more confidence in the US-based investigation into alleged corruption at Fifa if the FBI man who keeps appearing on television knew the name of the sport he was probing. It's football, okay? Nobody has called it soccer since about 1978.



A COUNCILLOR in Brierley Hill has said "Now that the regeneration of Dudley town centre is nearing an end, the council is turning its attention to other town centres."

As far as I can see, the roof of the market has changed colour, and a bit of the obligatory block paving. But nothing significant in the way of new shops. Remember shops, those places you used to go to buy stuff? Some people's definition of regeneration is clearly different to mine.



Wolves fans celebrate at a Molineux game in 2012



The Queen and Del Boy at Wolverhampton races



Stacie Coisne at the Tattoo Palace, Chapel Ash

# Black Country life in the picture at gallery

Images of the area are in the spotlight at an exhibition in Wolverhampton. **KIMBERLEY CRAYTON-BROWN** reports

**CHEERING** on Wolves, enjoying a day at the races, or lining up to see the legendary Robert Plant – people from the Black Country could find their faces among hundreds in an exhibition celebrating the region.

Over the course of four years Magnum photographer Martin Parr travelled throughout Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell, camera in hand documenting the everyday lives of people throughout the area.

Images of football fans at Molineux, ravers at the Wolverhampton Civic Hall and shop and factory workers are on display alongside wedding guests and racegoers. They are all part of the Black Country Stories exhibition, which opened at the city's art gallery last Saturday.

## Pigeon

An entire wall at Wolverhampton Art Gallery is covered with hundreds of images taken by the award-winning photographer, and gallery staff are encouraging people to come along and see if they make an appearance.

The image wall will form part of the exhibition alongside larger prints of Parr's work especially selected from the Black Country Stories archive, as well as 400 snapshots, oral histories and four documentary films made by Parr.

The films feature Willenhall pensioners on a Turkey and Tinsel coach trip to Weston-super-Mare, glassmakers in Stourbridge, a Moxley pigeon breeder who goes to Mongolia, and Teddy Gray's famous sweet factory.

Parr said: "I am looking forward to presenting back, to both Wolverhampton and the wider Black Country, the fruits of my four-year journey around this unique area. Despite



Staff putting together the wall of photos at Wolverhampton Art Gallery

the poor local economy, the spirit and determination of the community comes shining through."

At the beginning of the project, commissioned in 2010 by West Bromwich-based community arts charity Multistory, Parr said he felt he knew Britain quite well, but the Black Country was a blind spot.

In a blog detailing the project, he says: "I have either visited or photographed in most major cities, from Plymouth to Wick in the far north of Scotland. I do have my blind spots and one was the Black Country, despite driving past this on the M6 on my journeys north on many occasions. So when Emma Chetcuti from Multistory contacted me to ask if I might be interested in doing a photographic commission, in the borough of Sandwell, I could not say yes fast enough.

"With its famous industrial past, there was

going to be an inevitable sense of decline in the area, but what I had not counted on was the revitalisation that the many immigrant groups had brought to the area. There are active communities from many parts of the world: India, Pakistan of course, and the inevitable recent influx of Poles but also Somalis, West Indians and many others.

"It is this vital mix that we decided to focus on and, at the same time, looking for examples of traditional Black Country life that were in good health. As the lid was slowly eased open, we realised the power of the material that we were unearthing.

"This is a celebration of your community."

The 62-year-old, who was born in Surrey and now lives in Bristol, said his budding interest in photography when he was a teenager was encouraged by his grandfather, also a keen amateur photographer. Starting the

Black Country Stories project in Sandwell in 2010, Parr spent time at West Bromwich market, the town's St George's Day parade, and snapped Albion fans on a match day.

Staff at Mad O'Rourke's Pie factory in Tipton and its legendary 'Desperate Dan' cow pie also featured, along with youngsters pictured playing street games at the Black Country Living Museum, and a series of pictures at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick during the annual Vaisakhi festival.

During 2011 and 2012 he visited Wolverhampton, capturing pictures inside and outside Molineux of the rollercoaster of emotions expressed by fanatical football fans.

Colourful diamond jubilee celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II in 2012 showed churches, cricket clubs and neighbours all join together in celebrations, while nightlife was captured at the Slade Rooms and the Quest reunion at the Civic Hall. Other images featured staff at Marston's Brewery, youngsters at Royal Wolverhampton School, in Penn Road, and shoppers inside Wulfrun Shopping Centre.

## Acclaimed

Dudley had its turn in 2013, including moments at Bathams Brewery in Brierley Hill, Dudley Zoo, families enjoying Netherton Park fun day and the sea cadets.

Marguerite Nugent, Wolverhampton Art Gallery's senior curator, said: "Martin Parr is an internationally acclaimed documentary photographer so to have his work here and for that work to be about local people is a real coup."

"We hope people, who might not always visit, will come into the gallery to have a look to see if an image of themselves or anyone they know is in the exhibition. It really is a fascinating glimpse of Wolverhampton and the surrounding Black Country."

Black Country Stories is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, The New Art Gallery Walsall, Sandwell Council and Arts Council England, and is on display at the Lichfield Street gallery until August 22.

For more information go to [www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk/visit/wolves/](http://www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk/visit/wolves/)

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

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Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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# Call for mosque decision that's fair to all

WE write to voice our concern that yet again Dudley is to be the focal point for protest. These types of protest, though a democratic right when held peacefully, have cost hundreds of thousands of pounds to the public purse.

They have meant the loss of much needed income for the town's hard pressed traders, had a negative impact on community cohesion, and had an emotional impact upon many different people in our diverse community.

We urge people not to come and demonstrate, disrupting the town, tarnishing its image and dividing its

communities again. The on-going issue between the Dudley Muslim Association and the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council about the location of the new mosque is undoubtedly a contributory factor to the far-right's continued interest in our town. We believe it is now time to renew efforts at finding a speedy and amicable solution to this issue and would encourage all parties to find a positive way forward in a spirit of reconciliation.

We are keen that a positive outcome is achieved for all. In this way Dudley can continue to live out its motto of 'unity and progress', holding all of the richness of being a diverse community with values of respect, harmony and mutual flourishing.

Graham Usher, Bishop of Dudley; Ian Austin, MP Dudley North; Andy Gray, Chief Officer, Dudley Council for Voluntary Service; Len Lenihan, Chairman, Dudley Market Traders Association; Kenneth Rodney, Chief Officer, Centre for Equality and Diversity; Melvin Sinar, MD Petford Tools Ltd; Andrew Wickens, Chair, Dudley Borough Interfaith Network; Lowell Williams, Principal, Dudley College; Mike Wood, MP Dudley South

## Albion boss should set sights high

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

#### EMAIL

dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

*Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.*

## Why don't we care about our churches?

HOW sad it is that I read in your paper that yet another church is to be demolished, the second around Cradley Heath in recent years.

How sad that whilst we are building massive mosques like the one in Windmill Lane, Smethwick churches which represent our history going back hundreds of years are demolished.

There has been a huge fuss over the future of Dudley Hippodrome, which has nowhere near the history or the age of St Luke's, but where were the protesters? Where was the National Lottery? It seems they always prefer to spend their huge funds on some weird scheme rather than save our national heritage. The amount this church needed for repairs would be small to them.

Every day I see stories about people fighting to save local pubs or schools. If a church that goes back over 150 years is not national heritage, what is? Countries like Greece, France, Cyprus and Bulgaria look on their churches as national heritage and take care of them for the nation.

We need to take a serious look at what we are losing. This is our history — once it's gone it's gone forever.

H CAMWELL  
Oldbury

A LLEWELLYN  
Dudley

## Impatient pensioners are so rude

IN response to M Hislop and the unnamed correspondent moaning about bus drivers not letting pensioners board before 9:30am.

Everybody knows that the start time for passes is 9:30am, not 9:19am, not 9:25am, but 9:30am.

Pensioners seem to think they travel for free, they don't. The bus companies get paid to carry them and if they are let on before they can scan their pass, the bus company won't get paid.

Is it too much to ask that pensioners — who have more time to spend — wait until the correct time?

Or do they really think they should be able to flaunt the rules and do as they please?

The rudest people using the vilest language that I encounter on a daily basis are pensioners when they are told they are too early to ride.

So is it any surprise they aren't let on?

A LLEWELLYN  
Dudley

I FEEL I have to agree with J Brodie when he/she speaks of Albion coach Tony Pulis as showing a 'distinct lack of class' in wanting to sign Bakay Sako, as I'm sure he could look for a better player with Premier League experience.

I would be surprised if Bakay would wish to go to 'Sandwell Borough', as the Hawthorns has been referred to. It was stated that Wolverhampton had a better stadium, better players and better supporters.

J Brodie tips us off that they, 'The Wolves', have a fine goal-keeper in Carl Ikeme, and a future England defender in Danny Bath, which begs me to ask the question why did the Wolves not even make the play-offs? If and when they do make it to the Premiership, perhaps they could sign Peter Odemwingie, and then they may give us a five-goal thrashing.

T MORGAN  
Coseley

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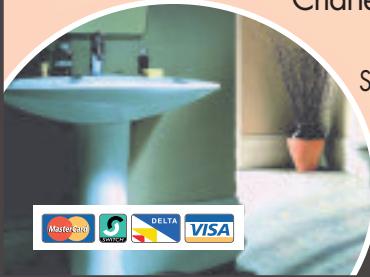
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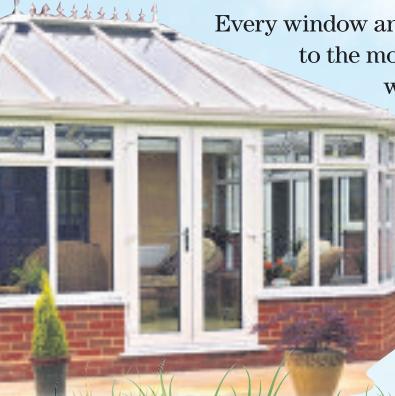
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# Glitzy night as beauty pageant pair sparkle

IT was a night of glitz and glamour – and dresses made of old book pages – as the search for Miss and Mr Black Country came to an end.

Wombourne's Jade Secker was announced as the new Miss Black Country, taking over from Shelley-Marie Sumner, of Walsall.

And while there was no actual crown for the new Mr Black Country, but a white silk sash instead, West Bromwich's James Machin was 'over the moon' with his win.

For the contestants, the final at Dudley's Castle Village Hotel was the end of months of hard work in their quest to claim the crown. The final stop of the journey for most, it is just the beginning for the winners who now go on to the national final in August in the hope of becoming Miss or Mr England.

From initial applications and interviews, through to fundraising for pageant charity 'Beauty with a Purpose' and boot camps, preparation for the Black Country final, run by the West Midlands branch of Miss England, involved far more than make-up and evening gowns.

Miss Secker, who works as a fundraising officer at The Haven Wolverhampton, said of all of the tasks leading up to the final the sport round was her toughest challenge. Including a Zumba class and a fitness boot camp, the 23-year-old said it had been a lot more difficult than she expected: "I thought I was quite fit but that was eye-opening."

Creating a recycled outfit to model on the catwalk in the eco round had been more her speed, with her design made up of old book pages and CDs inspired by a Valentine's Day window display. Miss Secker put her name down for the pageant after speaking



to organisers at a show, and said: "It is just one of those things I thought I would enter but didn't really think it would amount to anything."

The new Mr Black Country is also excited for the year ahead: "Hopefully by the end of the year I will have served well for the Black Country."

On this year's judging panel was Darlaston's own TV star Mark Rhodes. He was joined by previous Miss Black Country winner Shelley-Marie Sumner, Miss Wales 1995 and Miss UK 1996 Rachael Butler, Miss England 2013 Kirsty Heslewood, and Hybrid Makeup's Leah Heaven.

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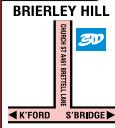
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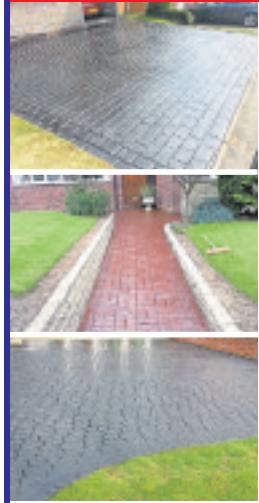
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## Guild marks 50 years with party

Wollaston E TWG

MAY 12 was a significant night for Wollaston Guild, as we celebrated our 50th anniversary.

The committee had organised quite a party, and in attendance were a few founder members, visitors from neighbouring guilds, guest of honour, Sheila Baker – a trustee of the townswomen's guilds' National Executive Committee, Federation Chairman Margaret Tew, together with approximately 60 Wollaston Guild members.

Vice Chairman Hazel Needham had put together quite a collection of memorabilia, including some very interesting photographs of members from long ago, taken on various guild occasions.

Items made by members attending current craft/painting and needlework sections were also on display.

A tempting buffet with drinks had been prepared, including a special celebration cake, beautifully decorated in guild colours.

Maggie O'Hara then entertained us admirably with rousing songs, some of which evoked memories of 50 years ago, and most members joined in. This was followed by a raffle, with many prize winners.

Sheila Baker gave a thank you speech and informed us that the numerous photographs she had taken would be uploaded to the Townswomen Guild website. The next meeting is at 7.30pm, on June 9, at St James Church Hall, Wollaston.

For their project Rugeley WI decided to

# Skittles and birthday party for members

Wombourne E TWG

MUCH is going on with our group.

The Skittles evening in April proved to be very popular with members and was a great success.

May's Birthday party was an evening of good food, good company and many laughs at the forfeits expected during Pass the Parcel.

There was another trip to the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton as the outing of last month for the Twelve Angry Men.

The production which has received great reviews had many well known TV actors in the production including Jason Merrells, Andrew Lancel and Robert Duncan.

Looking ahead, our speaker in June will be Penny Wheat who will enlighten us on the Craft of the Silversmith.

This will be on Thursday June 11 at the Community Room, Wombourne Library starting at 7.30pm.

We are pleased to welcome new members and further information can be obtained by phoning Margaret Whatmore on 01902 753795

## President steps into the breach

Bilbrook WI

OUR meeting was opened with Jerusalem, a welcome to members and visitors and notices.

Unfortunately our speaker for this meeting, Lynda Bird who was to give a talk on Antiques, was taken ill. Our President Julie apologised to the visitors.

Our events manager Margaret tried very hard to find a replacement, but no one was available.

Never one to be beaten our President Julie came up trumps with one of her quizzes and, as luck would have it we were very fortunate to have Denise

Morton with us who has only recently resigned as chairman of Staffordshire Federation of WIs and has been a member for more than 50 years who very kindly offered to give an impromptu talk.

Denise was an excellent speaker and told us of her very first visit to a WI. The meeting, was not very impressed and spent the next three weeks thinking up suitable excuses as to why she would not be going again, but her conscience got the better of her and along she went, this time she thoroughly enjoyed it and has never looked back.

Denise has been honoured with an OBE which she will collect later this year.

On Monday June 15 our speaker will be Diane Tordoff on Volunteering Abroad.

We meet on the third

Thursday of the month in

Holy Cross Church Hall,

Bilbrook Road, Bilbrook,

from 2-4pm.

THE Women's Institute is celebrating its centenary this year.

As part of the celebrations Staffordshire Federation has issued a Centenary Challenge for Institutes to take on a project in their local area to benefit their communities.

For their project Rugeley WI decided to provide some colour and interest in the town centre by placing a plant trough on the

Womens Institute

railings outside Rugeley Library. Rugeley WI President, Ann Stewart, obtained the necessary authorisation from the library and with some assistance from her husband installed and planted up the trough which will be maintained by WI members.

The Institute will be holding money raising events to cover the cost.

## Celebrating the centenary

Womens Institute



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## Bucket loads of help at hospice

AROUND £500 has been donated to a hospice left with a huge repair bill after thieves stripped lead from its roof.

Compton Hospice in Wolverhampton was raided twice, with catalytic converters taken from vans and flooding damage caused to rooms where the lead was ripped off the roof.

In total, the bill has come to £20,000 and the hospice's insurance won't cover it all as there have been previous similar incidents.

But bosses say they have been overwhelmed by goodwill with donations coming from as far as America after an anonymous woman spotted the hospice's plight on Facebook.

Beatties House of Fraser held a fun day to raise cash for the charity and a security firm is also offering assistance to the hospice, which costs £6 million a year to run.

Grace Ruston, marketing officer for Compton Hospice, thanked the public for their help.

# London families offered £7k if move to the Black Country

**LONDON** boroughs have relocated dozens of families on benefits to the Black Country because it's cheaper than finding accommodation in the capital.

One council is even paying families up to £7,000 to move out.

The authorities are housing people with private landlords in Sandwell and blaming the £26,000-a-year benefits cap. But council leaders in the West Midlands say this is putting pressure on resources and housing here and claim it has vindicated their attempt to stop 'benefits tourism'.

Two councils in London revealed they had sent 39 families to the West Midlands between them over the past year. Newham Council alone sent 25. Thirteen went to Sandwell, nine to Walsall and three to Wolverhampton. Brent Council did not break down its figures but said it had relocated 14 households since April 2014.

Wandsworth Council has written to residents offering to pay them up to £7,000 to move "within or near the surrounding areas of Birmingham".

Brent Council had around 4,500 families on the housing waiting list — yet Sandwell Council frequently has in excess of 7,000 on its waiting list.

Sandwell Council was criticised by a judge last year after it tried to introduce a residency test that said people had to live in the borough for at least two years to be eligible for support with council tax.

West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson said: "This is driving out people who do not want to leave their homes to move to areas they did not want to live in."

Councillor Margaret McLennan, housing chief at Brent Council, said: "Our main priority is to secure suitable accommodation for those who need it. Unfortunately, accommodation cannot always be provided in Brent."



Driven out — Tom Watson MP

**Locker raider is sent to prison**

A THIEF who prised open gym lockers, getting away with car keys, phones, bank cards and cash, has been locked up.

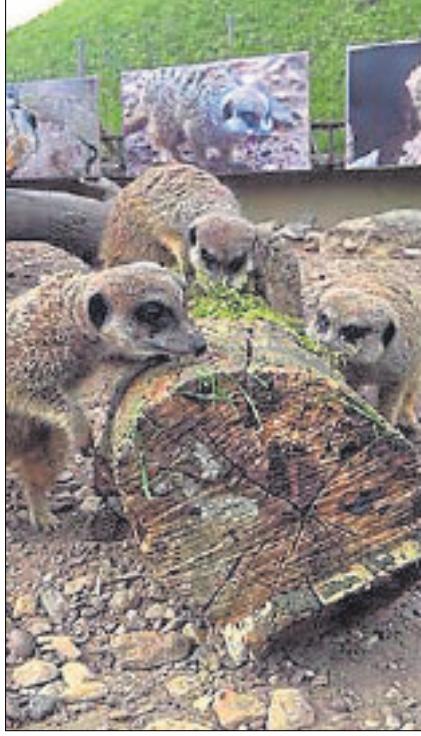
Nicky Lawrence's crime spree at Pure Gyms in the Black Country netted a haul worth £10,000. The 27-year-old stole three cars after finding keys in the lockers, targeting branches in Wolverhampton, West Bromwich, Smethwick and Stourbridge.

He struck 15 times in two months, in August and September, duping staff with false details. Two of the cars he stole were never found. Mr Philip Brunt, defending, said Lawrence was short of money.

Lawrence from Chipton Road, Alum Rock, Birmingham, admitted two charges of theft from the Wolverhampton gym and 10 charges relating to thefts from the other branches.

He was locked up for two years and five months by Recorder Abigail Nixon.

**It's the simples life with a log at the zoo**



Three of the zoo's meerkats get stuck into insect dinner

DIGGING for grubs may not sound like a pleasant hobby to us, but meerkats at Dudley Zoo are loving it. The intriguing creatures have been busy since keepers added old logs full of tasty creepy crawlies to their den.

Senior keeper Jodie Dryden brought in the rotten logs to keep the meerkat group entertained.

She said: "The logs were covered in moss and harboured lots of grubs so the meerkats had a marvellous time searching for treats. It was also an activity which allowed them to display their natural feeding behaviour and it was wonderful to watch."

The meerkat is a member of the mongoose family native to southern Africa.

Meerkats live in large social groups of around 20 individuals — it can be 50-plus — and are known collectively as a mob, gang or clan. They live within a large underground network of burrows which they leave only during the day.

In addition to insects, meerkats will eat lizards, snakes, spiders and scorpions, and in their natural habitat they have developed an immunity to powerful scorpion venom.

## Penn golfer hits his second hole in one

AN enthusiastic golfer was made up with delight after hitting a hole-in-one at one of Wolverhampton's most picturesque courses.

Alex Haynes, 41, scored his ace on the 135-yard, par-three seventh at Penn Golf Club while playing in a competition earlier this month.

Remarkably, it is the second time Alex has hit a hole-in-one on the seventh hole after achieving it for the first time last year.

Alex plays regularly at the club, situated at Penn Common, and is currently deputy captain of the Penn Golf Club team.

"It was an incredible feeling," he said. "I was walking down the hole and couldn't find the ball and then saw it in the pocket. I was stunned."

"To do it once is a very special feeling but to do it again is absolutely fantastic."

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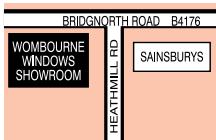
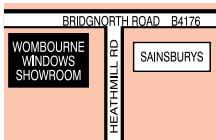
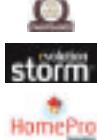
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## Views sought on Post Office move

POST Office bosses are inviting residents to give their views on plans to move a town centre branch.

Blackheath Post Office would move 300 metres from High Street to Halesowen Street under the proposals.

Saturday opening hours would also be extended with the new store to open 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday.

Will Russell, regional manager, said: "We understand how important having a Post Office is to residents in Blackheath and we are confident that this new modern Post Office service will meet the needs of the local community."

Residents wishing to give their view can call the customer helpline on 08457 22 33 44. The public consultation will close on July 9.

# Big drop in number of PCSOs on the beat over last five years

**THE number of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the West Midlands and Staffordshire fell by 15 per cent in the last five years.**

There were 160 fewer of the officers in both forces at the end of last year than in 2010. Some 135 of these were in the West Midlands and 25 in Staffordshire.

The Unison union says more needs to be done to protect police forces from Government cuts but bosses insist they are ensuring there are still enough officers.

West Midlands chiefs are in the middle of taking on 450 constables while Staffordshire Police is recruiting 31 PCSOs in the coming months.

Across the country, there has been a 27 per cent reduction in the number of PCSOs, with 4,430 jobs cut since 2010.

Critics say PCSOs make up the majority of neighbourhood police teams so the drop in numbers will have an effect on communities. It comes as the West Midlands force faces 2,500 job losses and £120 million of cuts in the next four years.

Unison general secretary Dave Prentis said:

"People feel safer when there is a visible and reassuring police presence on the beat. But four years of savage cuts to PCSOs mean that one-in-four police patrols have been withdrawn from our neighbourhoods since 2010."

West Midlands police and crime commissioner David Jamieson said: "Unison are absolutely correct that because of unfair Government cuts the number of PCSOs is falling."

"In the West Midlands we have faced the largest policing cuts in the country, which have been disproportionately higher than lower-crime rural areas."

## Handing over reins at toy shop



Toy shop owner Alan Caswell, right, with Dave Carter at the shop's current location

HE has served generations of Black Country families with the latest toys for around five decades but now a popular Dudley trader has stepped down from his role running a popular toy shop.

Alan Caswell and relatives at the family business, including sister Lynne, have handed over The Arcade Toy Shop, in the Fountain Arcade, off Dudley High Street, to new owners Dave Carter and Martyn Perry.

The shop was first opened by Mr Caswell's father Charles and business partner Harry Harper, who took on the store when previous toy shop at the site, called Woodsworths, shut down in 1967. His store was nominated as West Midlands toy store of the year in 1989 by the National Association of Toy Retailers. Mr Caswell received a golden teddy on his 40th anniversary from the British Toy and Hobby Association.

A £200,000 revamp of the arcade is under way using cash from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the store has been moved temporarily to another unit in the arcade while the finishing touches are being made.

Mr Caswell, 62, from Patingham, has decided to retire. Shoppers and traders in the arcade gave Mr Caswell gifts and presents.

But the grandfather-of-six will be on hand for advice and support for the new owners.

"It was wonderful to see so many people come out and it was lovely to see them all," he said.

"It has put my mind at rest to know that the store is being taken over by new family owners."

Dave Carter, 47, and 51-year-old Martyn Perry, both from Dudley, have taken ownership of the shop.

## First new secondary school for a decade

A FORMER high school is to be demolished, with the first new secondary school in Sandwell borough for a decade to be built in its place.

The bulldozers will move in on the former Langley High School in Moat Road, Oldbury, after being given the go-ahead by council chiefs.

The demolition of the building marks the next stage in the process to build a new secondary school on the site.

Work will quickly begin on the new school once the site is cleared.

Sandwell Council welcomed the development as 'great news for the children of Sandwell' when it was announced earlier this year.

The borough had been in desperate need of a new secondary school with others stretched to the limit by a baby boom in recent years.

## Meeting on pub's future

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to protect the future of a Bradley Heath pub will hold a public meeting on Wednesday evening, June 10, at The Haden Cross in Halewood Road.

The pub has been listed by Sandwell Council as an Asset of Community Value after a group was set up to fight plans to build a Co-Operative store on its car park.

But pub owner, Jersey-based property developer New River Retail, has requested a review of that decision.

## Business hit by club blaze

THOUSANDS of pounds of damage have been caused to a bedroom and kitchen showroom in Dudley after a major fire destroyed a neighbouring snooker club.

Businessman Mark Price has spoken of his shock after the blaze at Dudley Snooker Club wrecked his showroom and office. Arsonists have been blamed for the blaze at the club in Stafford Street, in the early hours of Sunday, May 24.

Mr Price has been counting the costs of the damage at his business called Price-2Beat, which moved into the showroom around two years ago. The 46-year-old father-of-two said: "It has caused a fair bit of damage. It was a shock." He added: "I have moved the business to my home while the damage is assessed."

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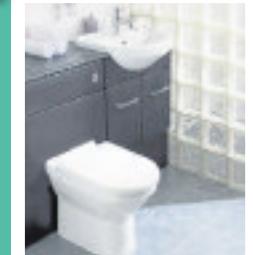
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## New MP's first visit is to school

A NEW MP returned to the place where his bid for office began when he dropped in for a visit at The Kingswinford School.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood met staff and pupils as part of his first official visit since he was elected last month.

Mr Wood had previously been selected to represent the constituency at an open primary held at the school and went on to win the seat for the Conservatives, following Chris Kelly's decision not to stand again.

Mr Wood had a majority of 4,270 over his Labour opponent.

Dudley councillor Mr Wood met Latin pupils studying Roman elections and observed a practical science lesson. He said: "The Kingswinford School was where the process of becoming MP for Dudley South started."

## Extra bus service to city

AN extra Saturday morning journey has been added to the 256 route connecting Wolverhampton and Stourbridge via Kingswinford.

The nightly 11.15pm departure from Wolverhampton will now go all the way through to Stourbridge instead of terminating at Kingswinford, and a return journey has been added from Stourbridge at midnight.

For more information visit [www.nxbus.co.uk](http://www.nxbus.co.uk)

## FOCUS ON KINGSWINFORD AND WALL HEATH

# Community cash call to boost security at Legion

CAMPAIGNERS are bidding for almost £6,000 in funding to help boost security at a burglary-hit Royal British Legion club.

Members of the public have been busy collecting funds for the Kingswinford branch which was raided around two months ago.

A bid is being put into a Dudley Council-run community forum to source more cash to pay towards new security measures at the club.

By Andrew Turton

A gang stole the one-ton safe holding £2,500 cash as well as taking £2,000 worth of alcohol from the club, and a 42-inch TV along with charity money. They also caused around £5,000 worth of damage to the premises.

Mr Townsend said: "We have been overwhelmed by the amount of support we have had."

This has included CCTV systems installed free of charge by local companies.

Councillor Tyler added: "This club is at the heart of the community and we should do what we can to help."

Groups and organisations can bid for funding from the community forums in their ward areas. Councillors take the final decision on granting funding.

A decision on the application will be taken at the meeting on June 23.



Family raising money for US trip — Elle with her sister Amira Mai and brother Brad

## Elle-Mae dolphin therapy bid

A FUNDRAISING event is being held to raise funds for a Kingswinford teenager to attend a rehabilitation centre in the US. Elle-Mae Davidon, 18, suffered a brain haemorrhage in 2013.

Elle's mother, Leah, said: "She literally fought for her life coming close to losing it six times. Elle spent five weeks in critical care, seven months in high dependency and 16 months in a children's rehab in Surrey. She is now finally back home with her family where she is loved so much."

Elle hopes to visit a rehabilitation centre in America, where she can swim with dolphins. Promise Dreams, the Wolverhampton-based charity has donated £2,000 towards her trip to Island Dolphin Care in Florida.

A fundraiser, Angels and Dreams Ball, is being held on September 4 at the Park Hall Hotel in Wolverhampton. Tickets £45. Call 07967 123430.

## Two rugby heroes at club's lunch

A PAIR of Rugby Union legends will be visiting Wall Heath in September for a World Cup warm-up lunch.

Former Wales and British Lions fly-half Jonathan Davies and British Lion and England prop Phil Vickery will be speaking at the event being staged by Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Football Club at its Heathbrook ground, in Swindon Road, on September 25 at 12.30pm.

Tickets for the event are £60 and tables of 10 can be booked for £550. They are available by calling 07779 923687.

Phil Vickery was a member of England's World Cup winning team in Australia in 2003.

The 2015 tournament, which is being played at venues throughout England and Wales, will run from September 18 to October 31.

## Top marks for pre-school

STAFF and children at a pre-school are celebrating after receiving top marks from watchdog Ofsted.

The Foundry Road Pre-School in Foundry Road, Kingswinford received an outstanding grading following an inspection.

Rachel Tatler, co-owner with Sam Lavender, said: "We were rated outstanding in all areas and obviously, we are absolutely thrilled. It is all down to hard work from the staff and a very good team."

## KINGSWINFORD HEALTH FACTORY

### Monday

0945 Pilates | 11am kick start fat loss  
1230 30min body blast | 5.45pm The Jungle Body - KONGA | 6.30pm Zumba studio 1 with Suzanne  
6.30pm Zumba studio 2 with Emma  
7.35pm indoor bootcamp | 7.45pm KS Extreme

### Tuesday

0945 Zumba | 2pm zumbini  
5pm Urban Rebound | 6.30 metafit  
7.10 Zumba burst | 7.10 Zumba step

### Wednesday

0945 Pilates | 6pm KS Extreme  
6.15pm Fitsteps | 6.30pm Step  
7.15pm Fitness Pilates  
7.45pm The Jungle Body - KONGA

### Thursday

0930 aerobics | 1045 Zumba  
6.30pm Insanity | 6.30pm Zumba  
7.45pm Circuits | 7.45pm Yoga

### Friday

0945 Zumba | 6.30pm Zumba

### Saturday

0915 metafit | 0930 Zumba

1000 The Jungle Body - KONGA

### Sunday

0930 Zumba

## SEDGELEY HEALTH FACTORY

### Monday

6.15 Zumba step | 7.05 Girl Power SGT Boxercise  
7.05 The Jungle Body KONGA

### Tuesday

10am aerobics and toning | 6pm KS Extreme  
6.40pm Zumba | 7.45pm Pilates

### Wednesday

2pm Zumbini - pre school programme  
6.15pm Zumba | 7.20pm Insanity

### Thursday

6 pm HIT LITE | 6.35 pm The Jungle Body - KONGA

### Friday

0945 urban rebound | 1015 mash up

6pm urban rebound | 6.40pm Zumba

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### Saturday

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### Sunday

0945 Zumba - booking essential

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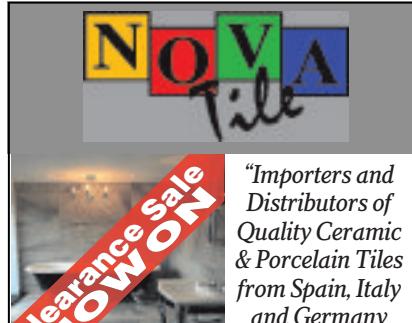
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# Young footballers help Hollie achieve her goal

A JUNIOR football team from the Black Country has helped make a disabled girl's dream of being able to play in her garden come true.

Netherton Colts regularly raises cash for good causes and this year chose to support six-year-old Hollie Flatman. More than £1,000 was raised by the club at three presentation evenings that saw sports memorabilia auctioned off and raffles held.

Hollie, who lives in Netherton, was born with Type Three Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a genetic condition which affects the nerves that control muscle movement.

Her parents Paula and Toby have spent years raising money for SMA charities and officials at the football club decided they would like to help them.

The money raised has allowed Hollie's parents to convert their garden

to make it accessible for their daughter, who uses a wheelchair. Ramps and other measures have made the garden more wheelchair-friendly.

Colts chairman Carl Botley, said: "We found out about Hollie through one of our managers Steve Pooler, who works with Hollie's dad. Hollie's parents do so much fundraising themselves and the club felt it was time to give something back to them and Hollie."

Hollie, who attends St Mary's Catholic School in Brierley Hill, has always wanted to be able to invite her friends round play in her garden.

Paula said: "Hollie is always invited to play at her friends houses after school but as she is in a wheelchair it is just too difficult. All she wants is to be able to play with her friends in the garden and now we can make the necessary changes."



Members of Netherton Colts FC are fundraising for Hollie Flatman pictured with her father Toby

# Plans for rundown shops will be revealed

A PUBLIC meeting will be held to reveal plans to redevelop rundown shops after a community campaign for action.

Local people have been demanding action to tackle the eyesore shops in Colley Gate, Cradley, which they claim are blighting the area. Members of Cradley Action Group have run a two year bid to have the shopping parade revitalised.

By Andrew Turton

"We are continuing to work with ward members and we remain committed to resolving this as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, residents of Lantern Road in Cradley Heath have lost their battle to have a tree removed which they say is causing damage to their homes.

Some residents had called for the tree to be given the chop.

One resident, Susan Lambert, saying its branches had caused damage to her shed and summerhouse.

Another resident complained the overhanging branches were making it difficult to park on his driveway and said he feared branches could damage his house.

But rather than order for its removal Dudley Council's planning committee instead decided to protect it by placing a tree preservation order on it.

But the order does not prevent the owner from cutting branches back, said planners.

## Arsonists

A year ago council workers were forced to board up the shops after they were targeted by arsonists twice in two days.

In the first incident a dozen firefighters had to tackle a blaze at a lock-up behind the shops and in the second a man had to flee his home after a fire at the former Lucky Star takeaway.

Dudley Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe said: "Once we have a developer in place we will be able to talk at length about our plans for the area, which will benefit everyone."

# Picnic will celebrate women's chain strike

FAMILIES are urged to take a picnic to a festival celebrating women chainmakers. The event in Cradley Heath High Street on July 12 is being dubbed a 'picnic with a purpose'.

Louise Blakeway, secretary of organisers Cradley Heath Creative, said: "We want people to share their favourite food with anyone who comes along and to tell us why they love it so much. We'll provide the eating gear — spoons, plates and serviettes."

Cradley Heath Creative will be hosting the community feast from their new pop up arts venue, 'Oss Box', a 1970s horse trailer. There will also be activities for youngsters during the event from 11am to 5pm.

The picnic as a whole will bring to life the victory of the women chainmakers of Cradley Heath through drama, dance, poetry and performance.

The 1910 Women Chainmakers' strike, led by Mary Macarthur, paved the way for the minimum wage.

# Campaign launched to safeguard pub

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to protect the Maypole pub in Halesowen. Customers fear its future could be in doubt after it was brought by New River Retail, which has recently purchased other pubs in the region.

In some cases it has applied to build a convenience store on part of the pub car park.

Supporters of the pub in Bassingham Road hope to follow in the footsteps of campaigners who successfully secured 'asset of community value' status for the Haden Cross in Cradley Heath, giving it greater protection from developers, after it was proposed to have a neighbouring store.

A petition has been launched by the newly-formed Friends of the Maypole group. But New River Retail said no firm decisions had been made.

Chairman of Friends of the Maypole Geoff Dixon said: "We are aiming for 200 signatures, petitions will be at the pub."

A spokesman for New River Retail, who acquired the Maypole as part of a portfolio of 202 pubs from Marston's in 2013 said: "We are currently reviewing options for this site."

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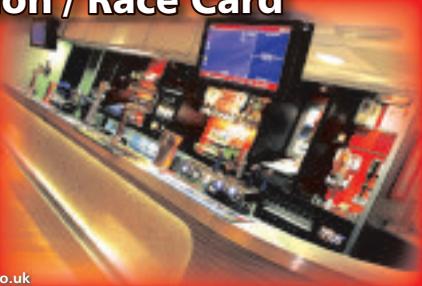
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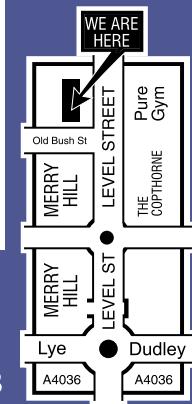
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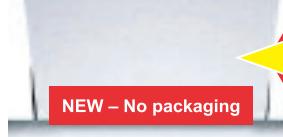
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## Les is more, as karate club marks 30th



Standing, from left, instructors Steve Knight, Les Knight, a black belt for 35 years and Gary Ray, at the club

He started out as a karate kid and now Les Knight is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the martial arts club he founded in the Black Country.

Les was just 11 when he was awarded a black belt back in 1980 – making him one of the youngest in the country to achieve the feat at the time.

Having taken up the sport since the age of five, he has dedicated most of his life to the sport. And when he was just 17 he opened his own club – teaching karate to people of all ages – from five to 50.

Now Tividale Shotokan Karate Club is celebrating its 30th anniversary and is, quite literally, going from strength to strength. Les, who lives in Tipton, is chief instructor at the club, which he formed in 1985.

"I actually started out when I was just five," said 47-year-old Les, who works at Vogue UK in Willenhall. My



Les, left, in 1980, with Mason brothers

club. His brother Steve, 33, of Tipton and friend Gary Ray, 43, of Cradley Heath, have also been involved with the club since a young age.

To celebrate the anniversary Les was joined by members of the Tividale club to recreate a photo of himself, which featured in the Express & Star in 1980 celebrating his black belt achievement.

"It was great to recreate that photo. Sadly I have not seen the Manson brothers, who feature in the original picture, for 20 years."

The club teaches around 80 students each week and Les admits to being thrilled when members achieve the black belt.

The club runs Monday and Wednesday evenings between 6pm and 7.30pm with extra training sessions on Saturdays when advertised at Holy Cross Church, Ashleigh Road, Tividale.



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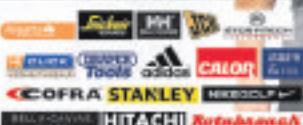
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Some of the AJS team by their tent in Cunningham's Camp



An AJS TT racer being tried for size



The many tents set up at Cunningham's Camp

# Looking back to the glory days

A RECENT Memory Lane highlighting Wolverhampton's motor-cycle racing pedigree took a few readers' minds back to the glory days of AJS.

Ken Millard saw a picture of his father in the victorious AJS Isle of Man TT racing team of 1921, which he had not seen before.

## Training

He remembered some photographs of the place the team stayed while on the island, Cunningham's Camp. This was a tented holiday camp started by Joseph Cunningham in the 1890s at Douglas.

It had up to 1,500 tents around some permanent buildings like the ornate dining hall, and was open for male visitors for the princely sum of 17s. 6d per week.

In the First World War it was used as an internment camp and in the Sec-

## MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

ond World War as a Royal Navy training camp.

Obviously when the TT races were on, it was a convenient and cheap place to stay.

Ken's father was an AJS Tester, and one of his other exploits was motor-cycle football on Highgate Common.

The games drew large crowds, and there seemed to be little in the way of Health and Safety involvement, with the riders not even wearing helmets.

Another famous AJS racer was Jack Scott, who recently donated an old canal sign to the Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre.

His grandson is so proud of his exploits he has a tattoo, of his grandfather racing his AJS in typical style.



Jack Scott and his great-grandson Daniel



Signed tattoo of Jack Scott on his grandson's arm

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The business is still very much family run with Company Director Dave Walters heavily involved with the everyday running of the business with five other members of staff who are family members. Dave's wife, Claire Walters has also joined the company to assist Dave with Health & Safety and HR requirements.

Our company ethos is 'if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing right'. We pride ourselves on our professionalism, workmanship, quality and aftersales and this is why we have gone from strength to strength over the last 8 years of economic uncertainty.

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Over the past twelve months we have improved the foundation of the company by attaining Construction Health & Safety Scheme accreditation (CHAS), training all of our staff in health & safety procedures and appointing an external Health & safety advisor to ensure that we are working safely and competently on customers properties and performing first class installations. This has also achieved us our first major commercial contract replacing 100 properties with windows and doors for a local housing association. We have taken on new products such as the Equinox Tiled roofing system for conservatories and noticed a massive swing of customers choosing composite doors as opposed to UPVC which offer improved looks and security.

Moving forward, DW Windows Ltd have completely outgrown our local Sedgley showroom and are now near to completing a deal to secure additional larger premises. This will enable us to continue to expand our installation team, create new office space and enable us to have one of the largest showrooms in the Midlands to showcase all of our fantastic products. Although we will keep our Sedgley showroom, the new premises

will allow us to create more jobs, assist the company to continue to expand whilst offering an increased product range and an even better service to our customers.



\*Pictures for illustration purposes only

# £13.9m bid made to Europe for new light rail scheme

A BID has been lodged for £13.9 million to kick-start plans for a light rail service taking train passengers into Dudley for the first time in 50 years.

The modern railcar would transport visitors from Dudley Port station, near Tipton, to the former rail station at the bottom of Castle Hill.

It is estimated it will cost around £27.8m to develop and an application for half of the cash has been submitted to the European Regional Development Fund.

Some of the money has already been secured with the rest expected to come from private investment.

The service would help tourists

visit Dudley Zoo, the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust, while there are also plans to then extend the light rail service towards Dudley bus station.

The scheme has been unveiled following a deal struck between Dudley Council and Warwick Manufacturing Group, which wants to use it as a pilot scheme for its next generation of railcars.

The group will open a multi-storey National Centre for Development of Very Light Rail Technology at the new station. Around 45 people would work at the site, overseeing the trial service and developing the technology.



An artist's impression of the new station for the £27.8m light rail project at Castle Hill in Dudley

# Garden party ruined by air gun incident

A FAMILY barbecue in Dudley was disturbed by a man with an air gun, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

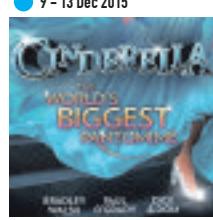
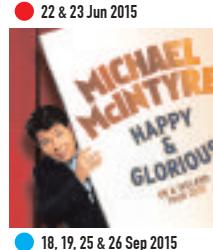
Matthew Hunt pointed the air rifle at Andrew Lane who was holding the party on June 14 last year in his garden, which backed onto Hunt's home, said Mr Alex Warren, prosecuting.

The confrontation came after Mr Lane had showed his own air gun to a guest at the barbecue and shot at tin cans. Then 22-year-old Hunt appeared at a window in his home holding his air rifle. He then appeared with the air gun at the fence and urged Mr Lane to 'load his weapon.' The neighbour called police and told officers he had been scared and upset.

Hunt, of Greenway Gardens, Dudley admitted using threatening words and behaviour. He was given a 12-month community order under supervision and told to pay £200 costs. The air rifle was ordered to be destroyed.

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# fast theticket

## The Mac are back

Fleetwood Mac –  
Page 23



**John Barrowman**

Page 23

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Birmingham, B1 2AA.  
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**5 Seconds of Summer**  
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm,  
£12.50 - £21.10  
Barclaycard Arena,  
Birmingham, B1 2AA.  
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**Detroit Soul**  
Fri, Sat at 11pm, £5 - £10  
The Jam House, 3-5 St Pauls  
Square, Birmingham, B31QU.  
Call 0121 200 3030

**Bring it all Back**  
Sat at 7.30pm, £13 - £15  
Palace Theatre, Redditch,  
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

**Take @ That**  
Fri at 7.30pm, £10 - £12  
The Robin 2, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

**Mostly Autumn 'Dressed In Voices'**  
Sun at 7.30pm, £14 - £15  
The Robin 2, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

**Talon - Best Of Eagles**  
Sun at 7.30pm,  
£14.50 - £24.25  
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
Call 01543 412121

**Slade UK**  
Sat at 7pm, £6 - £8.80  
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,  
WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

**Dreaming Of Kate**  
Sat at 8pm, £18  
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
Call 01527 577330

**Counting Crows - Somewhere Under**

Wed at 7pm, £41.25  
Wolverhampton Civic Hall,  
WV1 1RQ.  
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**From The Jam**  
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Thu at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £15  
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
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**The Superskas**  
Fri at 7.30pm, £8 - £10  
Newhampton Arts Centre,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.  
Call 01902 572090

## Hilarity Charity Gala 2015



Monday, 7.30pm  
Grand Theatre, W'ton  
This night of comedy is compered by comedy legend Daniel Kitson and features Greg Davies, Wolverhampton's very own Pappy's (BBC3's Baduluts) and Katherine Ryan. Visit [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk)

## FOLK & ACOUSTIC

**Irish Session**  
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**The Simon and Garfunkel Story**  
Sat at 7.30pm, £14 - £22.40  
New Alexandra Theatre, Station  
Street, Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**Black Diamond Singers Night**  
Fri at 8.30pm,  
The Lamp Tavern (Birmingham),  
B5 6AH. Call 0121 622 2599

**Brewood Acoustic Club  
Singers' Night**

Thu at 8pm, £2 (£1 singers)  
Brewood Cricket Club,  
ST19 9HX. Call 01902 850422

**Yis Aye**

Sat at 7.45pm, £6.75 - £7.75

Palace Theatre, Redditch,  
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

**Common Folk: Flossie  
Malaville**

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Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,  
Walsall, WV3 4BP. Call 01922 682018

**Country Music Nights**

Sun at 8.15pm, £2  
Swan With Two Necks,  
Longdon, WS15 4PN.  
Call 01543 491570

**Dan Whitehouse and others**

Fri at 8.30pm, £8  
The Glee Club, Birmingham,  
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

**JAZZ & BLUES**

**Matthew Long**  
Fri at 7.30pm, £12 - £12.75  
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Redditch, B98 8AE.  
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**I Feel Good**  
Sat at 8pm, £16  
The Crescent Theatre, B'ham,  
B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

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## Juice Comedy Night



Saturday, 7.30pm  
Gatehouse Theatre Stafford  
Danny Buckler (pictured) began his career as a magician, fronting his own magic show for Channel 4. On Saturday he tops the bill at the Juice Comedy club night.  
[www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk](http://www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk)

**BMOS Fiddler on the Roof**  
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**First Stages - Little Red**  
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B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

**Dot & Ethel: Gorilla Gardening**  
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Company**  
Sat at 7.30pm, £18.50  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE.  
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**The Boy in the Stripped  
Pyjamas**  
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1.45pm, Fri at 10am,  
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Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE.  
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**James and the Giant Peach**  
Sat at 11am, 2.30pm, Sun at  
2.30pm, £9 - £11  
Blue Orange Theatre,  
Birmingham, B18 6AD.  
Call 0121 212 2643

**Cirque Du Hilarious**  
Sun at 2pm, 6pm,  
£8.50 - £14.50  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE.  
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**Noises Off**  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm,  
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The Rose Theatre,  
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.  
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**Honk!**  
Thu at 7.30pm, £12.75  
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B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

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The Museum Of Cannock Chase,  
Hednesford, Cannock,  
WS12 1TD.  
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## BBC Good Food Show Summer



Thursday - June 14, from 9am  
NEC, B'ham  
All tickets to the show include a seat in the Superheatre, to see top chefs and experts cooking live on stage. This year's line-up includes Mary Berry (pictured) and John Torode. Visit [www.thene.co.uk](http://www.thene.co.uk)

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

# Return of the Mac in classic line-up



John McVie and Stevie Nicks of Fleetwood Mac — expect to hear Dreams, Rhiannon, Songbird and Don't Stop

THE return of Fleetwood Mac will be especially relished by fans in Birmingham as it marks the reunion of the classic Mac line-up with Birmingham-raised Christine McVie back in the band after a 16-year break.

McVie, who sang on Mac favourites Little Lies and You Make Loving Fun, grew up in Bearwood when her father was a music professor and concert violinist who played with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Before her marriage to Fleetwood Mac bassist John McVie, former Birmingham art student Christine Perfect joined Black Country blues band Chicken Shack and sang on their 1969 hit I'd Rather Go Blind.

The McVies will be joined on stage at the Genting Arena on Monday and Tuesday by founder member drummer Mick Fleetwood and the band's American contingent Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham.

Expect such classic songs at Dreams, Rhiannon and Don't Stop, and the Mac will return for a third gig at NEC venue on July 4. For tickets call 0844 338 8000.

Also coming up is the return Shaun Ryder and Bez, reunited with rapper Kermit, as Black Grape mark the 20th anniversary of debut album It's Great When You're Straight... Yeah at Birston's Robin 2 on Wednesday, June 10. Call 01902 401211.

## Fans raise up John's album



SINGER, showman and actor John Barrowman is back on stage at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday as part of his You Raise Me Up Tour.

Promoting his latest album, the tour brings the American-raised Glaswegian back to his first love as a song and dance man.

Since fighting the Daleks as Captain Jack Harkness in Doctor Who and other alien nasties in it's spin-off show Torchwood, the entertainer also became a family favourite making wishes come true on Tonight's The Night.

Currently he is playing the villain Malcolm Merlyn in hit US superhero show Arrow, which is aired in the UK by Sky.

He is also a DJ with his own Sunday evening show on Magic FM and is a fantasy author having penned three books with his sister Carole E Barrowman, the Hollow Earth series for young adults.

Former Birmingham Hippodrome panto star John said: "I'm so excited to be touring again that I'm choreographing songs and arranging stories in my sleep!"

John's fans funded the album through PledgeMusic's Direct to Fan platform and features new arrangements of his favourite songs, including Mandy, Bridge Over Troubled Water and the title track.

"This album has been a thrilling personal journey for me," added John. "Each lyric, each melody means something special. I can't wait to perform them live for all my fans."

For tickets see [www.tshs.co.uk](http://www.tshs.co.uk) or call 0121 345 0600.

### Clary will top bill at Brum's pantomime

COMEDIAN Julian Clary, singer Marti Pellow and West End star Lee Mead will take to the stage in Birmingham Hippodrome's pantomime Aladdin this winter.

The family favourite runs at the venue from December 19 until January 31, 2016. Clary, playing the Spirit of the Ring, has established himself as one of the country's most popular panto performers and played Dandini in Cinderella at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre last winter.

Wet Wet Wet frontman Pellow will star as the evil sorcerer Abanazar. In the main role of Aladdin is musical theatre star Mead, who won BBC TV talent show Any Dream Will Do.

### Drama, dance, music and comedy

THE Boy In The Striped Pyjamas is at Wolverhampton Grand Tuesday to Saturday. Based on John Boyne's popular novel for young readers about the friendship between the nine-year-old son of a concentration camp commandant and young Polish Jewish prisoner, it was made into a hit movie.

Also at the Grand, Russell Watson sings tonight. The Bee Gees story is told in Nights On Broadway tomorrow, Spanish dancers of Jalea Flamenco perform on Saturday, zany Cirque Du Hilarious entertain families on Sunday at 2 and 6pm; and the Hilarity Charity Gala with Greg Davies is on Monday.

### Red Lemons band get back together

ONE of the Black Country's favourite bands in the 1980s are planning a reunion concert in their home town of Stourbridge

Just like inspirations The Blues Brothers, The Red Lemon Electric Blues band are getting the band back together — for a special gig at Stourbridge Town Hall on September 11. In their heyday, the soul outfit fronted by Big Jim Merris sold out such venues as JBs and Junction 10 and supported Chuck Berry, Robert Plant and Motown's Edwin Starr. They briefly featured Adrian Chiles on bass and on tambourine a young Suzi Perry, the TV presenter's father Tony managed the group.

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JUNE PROGRAMME - For details collect a programme or visit our website

Fri 29 May - Thur 4 June FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD (12A)

Fri 29 May - Thur 4 June THE BEAT BEHIND MY FEET (15)

Mon 1 - Thur 4 June CHILD 44 (15) Mon 1 June HITCHCOCK'S THE BIRDS (15)

Fri 5 - Thur 18 June A ROYAL NIGHT OUT (12A)

Sun 7 June BICYCLE (PG)

Fri 5 - Thur 11 June GIRLHOOD (15)

Mon 8 June NIL BY MOUTH (18)

Tue 9 June LONDON ROAD PREMIERE & SATELLITE Q&A

Fri 12 - Thur 18 June MAD MAX: FURY ROAD (15)

Mon 15 - Thur 18 June ROSEWATER (15)

Fri 19 - Thur 25 June MAN UP (15)

CLOUDS OF SUL MARIA (15)

LONDON ROAD (15)

Fri 26 June - Thur 2 July LAMBERT AND STAMP (15)

Fri 26 June - Thur 2 July POLTERGEIST (15)

Sat 27 June BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND MATINEE - HOPE AND GLORY (15)

EVENTS

SUNDAY 7TH JUNE - SUMMER JAZZ IN THE COURTYARD. Enjoy a drink in our covered Victorian courtyard, hosted by The Carl Hodson Combo, with special guests. Free entry, with donations of 4.30pm - 8.30pm

The Royal Opera - Live to Cinema - LA BOHEME £18/£12.50 children

MONDAY 29TH JUNE - DON'T LEAVE ME NOW - Live play reading about Dementia £10

Collect a programme from box office, timings or visit the website [www.light-house.co.uk](http://www.light-house.co.uk)

REGULAR EVENTS INCLUDE

Vinyl Night - Knit Night - Film & TV Quiz - Language Cafes- Open Mics Singles - Wellbeing Cafe

Brain Tumour Support - God at Work - Guitar Group - SEE WEBSITE

4.30pm - 8.30pm

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REGULAR EVENTS INCLUDE



Rustic rendezvous – The Lyttelton Arms, good for food and drink



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Light and airy – the contemporary decor adds a relaxing and calm ambience



Man food – the big burger and fries

# Service with a smile but some Lyttel problems with the food

By Lisa Williams

GOING to the pub for lunch is so much more than a crusty ham cob, a packet of crisps and a pickled onion these days.

It's an adventure and a chance to sample fine foods from foreign lands to transport you from good old Blighty to more exciting, sunnier climes.

Pubs are desperately trying to be different in order to survive and food is where the big bucks come from these days.

Artisan rustic breads, Mediterranean mezze, Nocellara olives all sound so interesting and intriguing that it really makes you want to experiment and try something new.

It's funny but no matter how many dishes can appear on a menu, when I'm dining out with my other half and parents I can pretty much predict who will have what.

So for our culinary experience we decided on one of our favourite destinations – The Lyttelton Arms, Bromsgrove Road, Stourbridge. It has a track record that's pretty good going as busy restaurants go.

It was a return visit as two years had passed since we last sampled its delights.

Inside it looks the same. It's cosy yet contemporary with rural-themed canvases adorning the walls; woodpeckers, and country gents ready to hunt.

The menu style though has changed a little. It's become more eclectic trying to appeal to too many different tastes. For want of a better word 'trendy'. It was bustling with most of the tables occupied on a spring-like Saturday lunchtime.

When my mum had booked she'd requested the softer seating area (it's a pen-

sioner thing, my other half and I weren't so bothered) and normally they comply but on this occasion we were shown to a chunky wooden table with bum-numbing chairs but cushions were dispensed.

The service was impeccable. Not invasive but professional, swift and cheerful. We mulled over the menu with our first round of drinks and the waiter stopped by with a dish of nibby bits. These were some dried broad beans sprinkled in paprika.

## Dunked

Our starters arrived in just the right amount of time. Mum loved her rustic breads, big hunks of wholemeal loaf dunked in oil mixed with seed sprinkle.

Dad's soup on the other hand didn't have quite the same effect. He had gone for one of his favourites the leek and potato. But he found it watery and bland. Our Camembert

sharer was delicious. For the mains as I predicted the men went for burgers, mum cod and chips and me?

Well I went the far-out way of battered halloumi.

The burgers were on sturdy wooden boards with buckets of thin fries. The men loved them. The cod and halloumi both came resting on a row of chip slats but the ratio of different food stuffs for each dish was way off.

A massive piece of fish on seven (yep, we counted) twice-cooked thick cut chips with a tablespoon of pea purée and pretty much an entire lemon.

Dinner done. We ventured to the dessert menu and all were delicious.

The bill came in at just shy of £125 for the four of us, probably a little more than we felt the food was actually worth.

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## CHOICE



John Bishop

### The John Bishop Show (BBC1, 9.45pm)

The first edition of the Liverpudlian comedian's series went down a storm, so we have every reason to believe that this one will be a winner. Once again, Bishop is at the Hackney Empire in central London, and he's promising viewers an evening of top-class entertainment. Topping the bill are comedians Chris Ramsey, Zoe Lyons, Funmi Omitayo and New Zealander Sam Wills, who is better known as The Boy with Tape on His Face, while musical interludes are provided by Jessie Ware and Striking Matches. Bishop shows off his own fancy footwork while attempting an Irish dance routine with the cast of Riverdance, which has to be seen to be believed – just don't give up the day job, John.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Athletics. **2.00** The Olympic Journey: Born Winners. Gabby Logan investigates whether a girl's USA decided if they will be a winner. **2.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.30** Horner Under the Hammer. (R) **4.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Live Formula 1: The Canadian Grand Prix – Qualifying. Action from the battle for pole position (Start-time 6.00pm). **7.15** BBC News. **7.25** Regional Programme. **7.35** Now You See It. The best and worst of the magic world, featuring a tortoise performing the classic cup and ball trick and a magician who disappears into a photocopy. Narrated by Mel Giedroyc. **8.05** The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of competitors team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws. **8.55** Casualty. A patient's family crisis jeopardises Cal and Ethan's plan to attend a clinical trial in Finland and Dylan is crestfallen when Connie takes back the role of clinical lead. **9.45** The John Bishop Show. An evening of entertainment at the Hackney Empire theatre in London, including performances by Jessie Ware, Striking Matches, Chris Ramsey and Funmi Omitayo. **10.30** BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.50** Not Out. Lucy has her handbag stolen by a gang of muggers right under Lee's nose, so he sets out to prove he is not a total wimp. Sitcom, starring Lee Mack and Sally Bretton. (R) **11.20** Film: Tropic Thunder. (2008) The cast of a Vietnam War movie unknowingly wanders into the middle of a real-life conflict. Comedy, directed by and starring Ben Stiller, with Jack Black. **12.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** Animal Park. (R) **7.00** Film: A Tale of Two Cities. (1985) **8.55** Film: Firecreek. (1968) **10.35** James Stewart: Talking Pictures. (R) **11.25** Film: The Man Who Knew Too Much. (1956) **1.30** Formula 1: The Canadian Grand Prix – Second Practice. (R) **2.55** Live Formula 1: The Canadian Grand Prix – Third Practice. Further action from the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal. **4.00** F1 Rewind: Senna. **5.00** Antiques Road Trip. (R) **6.00** Gardeners' World. Carol Klein observes one of 400 gardens preparing to open to the public as part of the National Gardens Scheme, while a beekeeper arrives with a swarm for Monty Don's new hive. (R) **6.30** Flog It! Thomas Plant and Michael Baggett value items in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, including a 200-year-old teapot and costume jewellery encrusted with real diamonds. Paul Martin visits a 400-year-old house where even the cobwebs are being preserved for future generations. (R) **7.30** Edwardian Farm. It is October and Alex Langlands, Peter Ginn and Ruth Goodman take on new enterprises – market gardening, egg production, raising beef cattle and food preservation – using only Edwardian tools and materials. The team members also create clothing on industrial scale, bring a bull to the farm, open a chicken business and celebrate Halloween – early 20th-century style. (R) **8.30** Dad's Army. A major decides that his son is too old to be in the Home Guard, asking him to prove his worth by completing an assault course. (R) **9.00** Pinewoods: 80 Years of Movie Magic. Jonathan Ross gains unprecedented access to the iconic British film studio, meeting Joan Collins and Barbara Windsor to discuss their experiences on set. The site in Buckinghamshire was transformed into a studio during the 1930s and became home to the James Bond, Harry Potter, Superman and Carry On film series, and Ross goes behind the scenes to tackle some daring and spectacular stunts of his own. **10.30** Film: My Week with Marilyn. (2011) Fact-based drama, with Michelle Williams. **12.05** The Many Faces of Sid James. (R) **1.05** Film: Quatermass 2. (1957) **2.25** This is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Carimals. (R) **7.15** Soo's. (R) **7.30** Supermums. (R) **7.45** 8 & 9 Years. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **12.15** TV News: Weather. **12.25** Doc Martin. (R) **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. The women's singles final from Roland Garros. **5.30** Off Their Rockers. (R) **6.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.10** ITV News: Weather. **6.25** You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, including a 20-year-old girl whose hair catches fire. (R) **7.00** Live UEFA Champions League. Juventus v Barcelona (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the showpiece game from the Olympiastadion in Berlin, where two giants of Italian and Spanish football battle it out. Juve are appearing in their first European Cup final for 12 years – on that occasion they were defeated by rivals AC Milan on penalties at Old Trafford – while Barca last appeared at this stage in 2011, when they overcame Manchester United at Wembley to lift the trophy for the fourth time. Should the two sides meet again in Madrid Over Athletic Bilbao in the Copa del Rey final prior to this contest, then victory here for either club will see them record an historic treble, having both won their domestic league and Juve claimed the Coppa Italia with victory over Lazio. Presented by Mark Pougatch, with commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Andy Townsend. Subsequent programmes are subject to change. **10.20** ITV News: Weather. **10.35** Play to the Whistle – Extra Time. Holly Willoughby presents a compilation of clips from the sports-based comedy panel show, in which two teams go head to head in quizzes and physical games. Last in the series. **11.15** UEFA Champions League: Extra Time. Juventus v Barcelona. **12.00** The Chase. (R) **12.55** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **1.15** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **2.40** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **3.40** Hollyoaks. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Access. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** Derby Day Morning Line. **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Extraordinary Tales. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** The Derby: Channel 4 Racing from Epsom. Including the 4.30 Investec Derby (1m 4f). **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.20** Couples Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.05** Benchmark. Game show in which contestants decide how 10 people answered a series of tricky numerical questions. Hosted by Paddy McGuinness. (R) **7.00** Celebrity Fifteen to One. Jason Manford, Germaine Greer and Jimmy Carr are among the 15 well-known faces competing to win a large cash prize for charity, nominating each other to answer questions until only the winner is left standing. Notoriously tough general knowledge quiz, hosted by Adam Hills. (R) **8.00** The Restoration Man. Alison and Matthew Grey, two designers from London with young children, are looking for a new place to live within commuting distance of the city. The couple plan to turn a pumping station into a design haven, but with costs mounting, there's a danger they will have to refinance to finish the build. Architect George Clarke follows their progress. (R) **9.00** Film: Anna Karenina. (2012) Premium. The wife of a government official travels to Moscow to save her brother's marriage. Her journey leads to an encounter with a married cavalry officer, with whom she is instantly smitten, and when he follows her home, a passionate affair develops that scandalises the town and drives her husband to desperate ends. Period drama based on Leo Tolstoy's novel, starring Keira Knightley. **11.35** Film: The Brave One. (2007) A radio talk-show host descends into a spiral of violence after taking the law into her own hands to avenge her fiancée's murderer. Thriller, starring Jodie Foster. **1.50** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **2.40** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **3.40** Hollyoaks. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.40** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **11.40** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **12.40** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **1.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **2.30** Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.10** Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel. (R) **4.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **5.10** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **6.10** The Nightmare Neighbour. (R) **7.00** A couple whose retirement was ruined by an 8ft wall built by their neighbour, plus a mother and daughter fed up with living opposite a flat full of rabbits. (R) **7.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Enforcement agents are faced with the difficult job of evicting a woman with two children – a task that takes a turn for the worse when her ex-partner makes an appearance. (R) **7.55** 5 News Weekend. **8.00** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. **2.00** Comedians Matt Richardson and Katya Brand present another selection of the most popular videos featuring dogs, while pet behaviourist Professor Peter Neville provides the scientific background. Featuring Brixkit's sleepwalking antics, which have notched up almost 33 million hits on YouTube, and footage of Norman the French sheepdog riding scooters, skateboards and bikes. (R) **9.00** Big Brother. Friday's highlights, including housemates' reactions to the latest eviction, revealing how the departure has affected the remaining contestants. **10.00** The Incredibly Hulk Woman: Extraordinary People. Documentary following a mother-of-three who has rare neurological condition stiff-person syndrome, which causes severe muscle spasms in the arms and legs. (R) **10.55** Kellie Maloney: No Going Back. Documentary following the boxing promoter as she embarked on a sex change, from the law into her own hands to avenge her fiancée's murderer. (R) **11.55** Access. (R) **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** Furry & Funny: Caught on Camera. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three** **7.00** Top Gear 8.00 Don't Tell the Bride 9.00 Live at the Apollo **9.30** Family Guy 10.35 Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup, Canada v China (Kick-off 11.00pm). **1.00** Family Guy 1.25 Murder in Successville 1.55 Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment 2.25 Russell Howard's Good News 2.55 Live at the Apollo 3.25 Murder in Successville **4.00** Close **BBC Four** **7.00** Fossil Wonders: Nature's Hidden Treasures **8.00** Wild Arabia 9.00 1864 **10.55** TOTP2: Summertime Special **11.55** Top of the Pops: 1980 **12.35** Guitar Heroes at the BBC **1.35** Wild Arabia 2.35 Metamorphosis – The Science of Change **3.35** Close **ITV2** **11.30** Britain's Got More Talent: Simon's Ten Moment **12.30** Film: Beethoven's Last Waltz 2.15 Mr Bean **3.25** Tom Bawlers: Guinness World Records 3.50 Film: Karate Kid **4.00** (2003) **5.35** Film: Cats & Dogs **5.25** Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **10.00** Film: 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003) **12.10** Film: Red Dragon (2002) **2.25** Life's Funniest Moments **2.50** Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3** **1.00** Lewis **7.00** Midsomer Murders 9.00 Foyle's War **11.00** A Touch of Frost **1.10** Wire in the Blood **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4** **11.55** BRDC Formula 1 Championship Highlights **1.00** Live Formula 1 Championship: The Moscow ePrix **3.30** Minder **4.30** Storage Wars 4.55 Football's Greatest **5.00** Zinedine Zidane **5.15** Live French Open Tennis: The men's doubles final **7.00** TT 2015 **10.00** Film: You Only Live Twice (1967) **12.25** River Monsters **1.30** TT 2015 **2.20** Nitro Circus **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **12.00** Baby Daddy **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.00** Film: Clueless (1995) **5.00** Made in Chelsea **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Battle: Los Angeles (2011) **11.20** Gogglebox **1.25** Rude Tube **2.30** 2 Broke Girls **2.55** How I Met Your Mother **3.35** Rules of Engagement **4.25** New Girl **Film4** **11.00** Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (1953) **1.00** Millions (2004) **3.05** A Monster in Paris (2011) **4.45** Biggles (1986) **6.30** Star Trek (2009) **9.00** The Sitter (2011) **10.40** Insidious (2010) **12.45** A Prophet (2009) **3.55** Close

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**CHOICE****Channel 4's Comedy Gala 2015**

(Channel 4, 9pm)

In 1852, the Hospital for Sick Children was founded. It had just 10 beds, but thanks to the patronage of such figures as Queen Victoria and Charles Dickens, it quickly grew and soon Great Ormond Street Hospital, as it is now known, became a world-renowned centre for the treatment of sick children. Dickens was one of its first fundraisers, a role many famous personalities have adopted over the decades. The latest batch includes Aisling Bea, Alan Carr, Jack Dee, Jason Byrne, Jon Richardson, Josh Widdicombe, Trevor Noah, Michael McIntyre, Rich Hall and Warwick Davis, who are among those giving up their time to help raise cash via this annual concert at London's O2 Arena.

**BBC1**

**6.00 Breakfast.** **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. **(R)** **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. **(R)** **2.00** Flog It! **(R)** **2.40** The Man About Your Teeth. **(R)** **3.40** Points of View. **3.55** Songs of Praise. **4.30** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. **(R)** **5.00** Countryfile. **6.00** News. **6.15** Regional Programme. **6.25** Live Formula 1: The Canadian Grand Prix. Suzi Perry introduces coverage of the seventh round of the season at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal. (Start-time 7.00pm). World champion Lewis Hamilton is bidding to win this race for a fourth time, which would put him second on the all-time list of victors in Canada behind Michael Schumacher. Hamilton will be looking to get over the disappointment of his third-place finish in Monaco last time out, when what seemed like certain victory slipped through his grasp due to a tactical error by his team. Commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard.

**9.00 Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell.**

Strange develops a growing fascination with the magic of the Raven King, an obsession which drives a wedge between him and Norrell, who becomes determined to stop him resurrecting the dark powers of ancient times. Strange tries to use his magic to cure King George III of his madness, but in doing so, he begins to suspect something terrible is lurking unseen in the shadows. Drawlight is caught selling magical secrets, while the Gentleman seeks Stephen's aid in putting a stop to Strange's meddling.

**10.00 BBC News.**

**10.20 Regional Programme.** **10.30** Live at the Apollo. Jack Whitehall hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Katherine Ryan and Rich Hall. **(R)** **11.15** Film: **Blades of Glory.** (2007) Rival figure skaters bury the hatchet after they discover a loophole enabling them to compete in the world championships as a same-sex pair. Comedy, with Will Ferrell.

**12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.**

**12.50 BBC News.**

**BBC2**

**6.00** The Big Allotment Challenge. **(R)** **7.00** Countryfile. **8.00** Gardeners' World. **8.30** Greatest Gardens. **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** The Box. **(R)** **1.30** The Box. **(R)** **1.45** The Box. **(R)** **2.00** The Box. **(R)** **2.30** Berry's Absolute Berry. **(R)** **2.30** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. **3.00** Live Athletics: The Sainsbury's Birmingham Grand Prix. **5.20** Hotel India. **(R)** **6.20** Film: **Shall We Dance?** (2004) A bored workaholic lawyer becomes fixated with a beautiful dance teacher and enrolls in her class. When she flatly rejects his advances, he decides to concentrate on perfecting his footwork – but keeps the new hobby a secret, making his wife very suspicious about the amount of time he is spending away from home. Romantic comedy, starring Richard Gere. Edited for daytime broadcast.

**8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the experts return to Richmond Park in west London, where members of the public gather at White Lodge, home of the Royal Ballet School, to find out the worth of various antiques and collectibles. Items include a table said to be made of timber from Old London Bridge, a Maori feather box, a pair of musical chamber pot and an artist's brush pot bought in a junk shop more than 50 years ago. **(R)**
**9.00 Armada: 12 Days to Save Britain.** Dan Snow concludes the three-part drama-documentary exploring the battle against the Spanish Armada. The final episode reveals the circumstances that led to the defeat of the invasion force, drawing on recently rediscovered documents, and also explores how victory enhanced Elizabeth I's reputation as a world leader – while many of the sailors who fought in the battle died of starvation and disease. Last in the series.
**10.00 Protecting Our Foster Kids.** New series. A year in the life of Dorset County Council's fostering service. A teenage hopes to settle down with a new family, but her foster parents face some hard choices.
**11.00 Film: A Single Man.** (2009)
**12.30 Formula 1: The Canadian Grand Prix - Highlights.** **1.30** Sign Zone: Countryside. **(R)** **2.30** Holby City. **(R)** **3.30** This is BBC Two.
**ITV**

**6.00** CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. **(R)** **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **(R)** **6.45** Dino Dan: Fort Boyard. **(R)** **7.00** Caraniels. **(R)** **7.15** Sooty. **(R)** **7.30** Fort Boyard: The Circus. **(R)** **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. **(R)** **11.25** Long Lost Family. **(R)** **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Live International Football. Republic of Ireland v England (Kick-off 1.00pm). **3.10** Live French Open Tennis. The men's singles final.

**6.00 Regional Programme:** Weather.**6.15 CITV: Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the revival of the game show in which contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. **(R)**
**7.15 Celebrity Swap.** Warwick Davis hosts the quiz with guests Sue Perkins, Keith Duffy, Sara Pascoe, Melany Sykes, Ben Miller, Matt Richardson and Trevor Noah. Last in the series.
**8.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium.** Jack Whitehall introduces the variety show, featuring Simply Red, Leona Lewis, Jess Glynne, Sara Pascoe and Britain's Got Talent finalist Jack Carroll. Last in the series.
**9.00 Home Fires.** Frances takes in an evacuee from Liverpool, who is not what she expected. Erica is forced to face the consequences of her actions, while Miriam writes letters to soldiers on the front line that cause more harm than good. Laura and Richard's secret affair is jeopardised when someone sees them together. Teresa receives devastating news, and Claire must decide whether or not to stand by Spencer. **(R)**
**10.05 ITV News:** Weather.
**10.20 International Football Highlights.** Republic of Ireland v England. Action from the friendly encounter at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin, the first meeting between the sides in Ireland for 20 years.
**11.20 Vicious.** Violet panics when her wealthy sister announces a visit, so she and her friends begin an elaborate plan to save her from humiliation. **(R)**
**11.50 Piers Morgan's Life Stories:** Donny Osmond. **(R)**
**12.40 Film:** Get Him to the Greek. (2010)
**2.30** Come Dine with Me. **(R)** **4.45** River Cottage Bites. **(R)** **3.20** ITV Nightscreen.
**CHANNEL 4**

**6.15** How I Met Your Mother. **(R)** **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. **(R)** **7.05** British GT. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R)** **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R)** **8.30** Frasier. **(R)** **9.00** Frasier. **(R)** **9.30** Shindig. **(R)** **12.15** The Amazing Spider-Man. **(R)** **1.30** Film: We Bought a Zoo. (2011) Premiere. Fact-based comedy-drama, starring Matt Damon. **3.55** Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days. (2012) **5.50** Channel 4 News.

**6.10** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. A man wants a holiday home in Wales, near to his racing club, while his wife would prefer France's Côte d'Azur. Laura Hamilton and Adrian Simpson help them decide.
**7.05 Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer guide prospective buyers in the popular commuter county of Kent, where homes are snapped up quickly due to their proximity to London. **(R)**
**8.00 For the Love of Cars.** Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead look back over the hard work that has gone into restoring the vehicles featured in this series as a number of them are put up for sale. They attend a car auction to pick up some tips on these high-stakes events, and catch up with some of the motorists featured in the first series, who offer their advice on making a profit from a sale. Last in the series.
**9.00 Channel 4's Comedy Gala 2015.**

The annual stand-up comedy concert in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity returns for a sixth year, with a host of stars appearing at London's O2 arena. Featuring Aisling Bea, Alan Carr, Jack Dee, Jason Byrne, Jon Richardson, Josh Widdicombe, Katherine Ryan, Kevin Bridges, Michael McIntyre, Paul Chowdhry, Rich Hall, Rob Beckett, Romesh Ranganathan, Russell Kane, Sara Pascoe, Sean Lock, Seann Walsh, Shappi Khorsandi, Trevor Noah and Warwick Davis.

**11.35 Lee Mack Live.** The comedian's live show, performed at London's Bloomsbury Theatre, in which he touches on bizarre subjects, from panty marketing to grandmothers snorting a powdered dessert. **(R)**
**12.40 Film:** Get Him to the Greek. (2010)
**2.30** Come Dine with Me. **(R)** **4.45** River Cottage Bites. **(R)** **3.20** ITV Nightscreen.
**CHANNEL 5**

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. **(R)** **6.15** Milkshake! Bob Box. **(R)** **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. **(R)** **6.35** Pip Hooray! **(R)** **6.45** The Mr Men Show. **(R)** **7.00** Chloe's Club. **(R)** **7.10** Mr and Mrs Mark. **(R)** **7.45** Robot and Custard Train. **(R)** **8.20** Matilda Way for Noddy. **(R)** **8.35** Pow Patrol. **(R)** **7.50** Little Princess. **(R)** **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. **(R)** **8.15** Zack and Quack. **(R)** **8.25** Olly the Little White Van. **(R)** **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. **(R)** **8.45** Jelly Jamm. **(R)** **8.55** Toby's Travelling Circus. **(R)** **9.05** LazyTown. **(R)** **9.30** Dora and Friends. **(R)** **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.40** The Dog Rescuers. **(R)** **11.10** Ultimate Police Interceptors. **(R)** **12.10** Benefit House: Me & My 26 Kids. **(R)** **1.10** Benefits. Babies and Jail. **(R)** **2.10** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. **(R)** **3.10** My Big Xmas Benefit Blow-Out. **(R)** **4.10** Film: Open Season 3. (2010) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Matthew J. Munn. **5.40** Film: The Haunted Mansion. (2003) Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy.

**7.15 Film: The Wedding Date.** (2005) A single woman is horrified by the thought of attending her sister's wedding alone, a task made all the more difficult by the presence of her fiance. Told to bring the bull by the horns, she hires a male escort for the occasion – but her decision has unexpected results. Romantic comedy, starring Debra Messing, Jack Davenport, Amy Adams, Dermot Mulroney and Sarah Parish.
**8.55 5 News Weekend.**

**9.00** Big Brother. Daily round-up of the highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother in the aftermath of the recent eviction. Featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary-room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

**10.00 Film: Dark Skies.** (2013) Premiere. A suburban American home attracts the attention of alien invaders, who wage a campaign of terror against its residents. Sci-fi horror, with Keri Russell and Josh Hamilton.
**11.50 Film: Crank: High Voltage.** (2009) A hitman pursues a mobster who took his heart and replaced it with a machine that requires constant charging up. Action thriller sequel, starring Jason Statham.
**12.35 SuperCasino.** **3.10** Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel. **(R)**
**DIGITAL****BBC Three**

**7.00** Great TV Mistakes **7.30** Top Gear **8.00** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. Germany v Ivory Coast (Kick-off 9.00pm). **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.00** Family Guy **12.30** Festivals, Sex & Suspicious Parents **1.30** Murder in Successville **2.00** Truly Madly Wembley **3.00** Where Am I Sleeping **3.35** Close

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Egypt's Lost Queens **8.00** Julie Walters in Conversation with Richard E. Grant **9.00** Film: Billy Elliot (2000) **10.45** Timewalk: 1960 – The Year of the North **11.45** Top of the Pops: 1980 – Big Hits **12.45** I'm a Popstar **1.45** The Old Grey Whistle Test: 70s Gold **3.15** Close

**ITV2**

**12.05** Take Me Out **1.20** Take Me Out – The Gossips **2.05** Mr Bean **2.45** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **4.30** Film: Jurassic Park III (2001) **6.15** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) **9.00** Love Island: Live **10.30** Film: Couples Retreat (2009) **12.50** Mom! **1.40** Fake Reaction **2.15** Teleshopping **3.00**

**ITV3**

**11.00** Lewis **9.00** The One and Only Cilla Black **10.30** Lewis **12.40** Film: The Breakfast Club (1985) **2.20** Doctor in the House **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.15** Emmerdale

**ITV4**

**11.15** Live British Touring Car Championship. Round four from Oulton Park. **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. The men's singles final. **3.15** Live British Touring Car Championship. Round four from Oulton Park. **6.30** Storage Wars **7.00** Cycling **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** TT 2015 **10.00** Motorsport UK Extra **11.30** Film: Road (2014) **1.45** TT 2015 **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00**

**ITV5**

**12.30** Made in Chelsea **1.35** Melissa & Joey **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: The Simpsons Movie (2007) **9.45** Gogglebox **11.55** Rude Tube **12.55** Virtually Famous **1.45** Tattoos After Dark **2.40** New Girl **3.25** Hollyoaks **4.00** Film: **11.00** Titanic (1997) **1.00** Explorers (1985) **3.15** Marley and Me (2008) **5.35** Australia (2008) **9.00** Bridesmaids (2011) Comedy, starring Kristen Wiig. **11.30** The Station Agent (2003) **1.15** Rust and Bone (2012) **3.45** Close

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## FILM CHOICES

## MONDAY

Carry On Screaming, ITV, 11.40pm

A sinister boffin, his sultry sister and two genetic misfits kidnap innocent women from spooky Hocomb Woods and turn them into mannequins – but two dim-witted detectives look set to throw a spanner in the works. Comedy horror, starring Kenneth Williams and Fenella Fielding. (1966)

## TUESDAY

Reign of Fire, BBC1, 11.20pm

In the aftermath of decades of apocalyptic attacks by dragons, small pockets of survivors try to stave off the scaly fire-breathers. However, the meagre remains of the world's heavy artillery are not enough to stop them, so a small group of people joins forces with a zealous dragon slayer in a final bid to save the world from destruction. Fantasy adventure, with Christian Bale and Matthew McConaughey. (2001)



Total Recall, Friday, ITV, 11.10pm

## WEDNESDAY

Fatal Friends, Channel 5, 3.10pm

Quiet teenage musician Ashley is delighted when she befriends new student Michelle, until the girl shows worrying signs of being possessive. When a strange series of events threatens to disrupt Ashley's family, school life and a budding relationship, she realises she has to put a stop to Michelle's destructive behaviour. Thriller, starring Kristen Prout. (2015)

## THURSDAY

Smoke Screen, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Premiere. A reporter becomes involved in a murder investigation when she wakes up next to a corpse and cannot remember a thing about the night before. Drama, with Jaime Pressly. (2010)

## FRIDAY

Total Recall, ITV, 11.10pm

A construction worker pays to have fake memories of a dream holiday implanted into his brain, but discovers his mind has already been tampered with – apparently to erase his true identity as a secret agent from a colony on Mars. He journeys to the planet in search of the truth, but is drawn into a conflict between the tyrannical ruler and a rebel faction. Paul Verhoeven's sci-fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. (1990)

## Going behind the scenes at a legendary venue

**H**ollywood may dominate our movie-going habits, but the British film industry has a lot to shout about. The BBC recently patted its own film-making arm on the back when it reached its 25th anniversary, and now it's turning its attention to the entire country's cinematic output – and it isn't exactly insubstantial.

"British film-making has always been defined by exceptional talents and maverick voices, championing the unique over the uniform," says Jonty Clapdale, director of BBC Arts.

"Working in close partnership with the BFI, benefitting from their insight and expertise, this ambitious season crosses television, radio, online and cinema screens."

Heather Stewart, Creative Director of the BFI adds: "It's a thrill to work alongside our partners at the BBC to bring Britain's illustrious big screen heritage to the UK's small screens, and highlight some of British cinema's greatest achievements to the widest possible audience."

The Genius of British Cinema season really gets going today, with the 1958 version of A Tale of Two

Cities, starring Dirk Bogarde, kicking off at 7am.

Then, at 9pm, comes Pinewood: 80 Years of Movie Magic, a feature-length documentary about the country's most famous studio.

It was founded in 1935 by J Arthur Rank, who had made his fortune from milling flour and had originally got into film-making as a way of promoting his Methodist beliefs. He joined forces with three other investors to turn Heatherden Hall and its surrounding land near Iver Heath in Buckinghamshire into a studio that would rival anything in Hollywood.

Rank was, however, the driving force behind the project, and branched out into distribution and exhibition so that his movies would never be swamped by American products.

During the 1940s and 1960s, the Rank Organisation was behind some of the most memorable British films ever made, including A Matter of Life and Death, Henry V, Brief Encounter and Great Expectations.

Rank himself remains an important

figure, so much so that the house in which he was born in Hull recently underwent a refurbishment and was reopened with much pomp and ceremony, including a musclemen with a gong – which was the symbol of his company.

He may have backed many films over the years, but arguably Rank's greatest creation was Pinewood itself. It's still going strong and is the home of Harry Potter and James Bond, while the forthcoming Star Wars sequels were also shot there.

In this programme, Ross meets some of the stars who have worked at Pinewood, including Barbara Windsor and Joan Collins, and even watches one of John Mills' finest films alongside his daughter, Hayley, who made Whistle Down the Wind there as a child star in the 1960s.

Producer and director Matthew Vaughn shares his memories of making Kick-Ass and Kingsman: The Secret Service (both co-written with Ross' wife, Jane Goldman), and discusses why the place is so important to makers of blockbusters.



Pinewood: 80 Years of Movie Magic, Saturday, BBC2, 9pm

## BEST OF THE REST

## MONDAY

The Met  
BBC1, 9pm

British society is forever evolving, and at the moment, of all the jobs in the public sector, the police force is arguably going through the biggest changes. This new fly-on-the-wall series takes an in-depth look at how the Metropolitan Police Service works, as viewers are taken behind the scenes of one of the country's most important institutions. The six-part show will hopefully illustrate the scale and complexity of policing London on a day-to-day basis, shining a light on how the Met works from root to branch – from Commissioner of Police Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe himself, down to the bobby on the beat. There's a look at everything from management board meetings to recruits being thrown in at the deep end on their first day. And the programme makers have promised not to shy away from the issues, and get to the heart of what it's like to be a policeman in modern Britain.

## TUESDAY

Running The Shop  
Channel 4, 8pm

New series. In this business-based challenge series, entrepreneur Hilary Devey persuades bosses from companies around Britain to leave

their business for three weeks and let the staff take over. The first episode centres on family owned DIY homestore Taskers in Aintree. John Tasker leaves his staff £30,000 of his own money to improve the business as he steps down for a few days. However, it remains to be seen whether cashiers Tom and Debs can win over a whole new market, or if a clever advertising idea will bring in much-needed customers.

## WEDNESDAY

DIY SOS: The Big Build  
BBC1, 8pm

Nick Knowles and his crack team of builders, plasterers and electricians come to the aid of Frank and Christine Burrows in Wigan. In 2012, their 35-year-old son Mark was paralysed as the result of an unprovoked attack that left him with severe brain damage. Mark now needs constant care, but the Burrows' family home is not yet fit for purpose, so Frank and Christine have been forced to take their son to a care home 15 miles away. With the help of designer Laurence Llewelyn Bowen, Nick's experts set about constructing a self-contained apartment alongside the Burrows'

two-bedroom bungalow, which will provide Nick with the space, independence and security he needs to return home.

The Interceptor  
BBC1, 9pm

Ash, a talented customs agent with a troubled past, is head-hunted to join UNIT, an elite team of law enforcers that operates beyond the jurisdiction of the police. UNIT's mission is to bring justice to the serious career criminals who have become accustomed to evading the full force of the law, a goal that instantly appeals to Ash, who has a few scores to settle with certain high-ranking members of the underworld. Crime drama, starring O-T Fagbenle.

THURSDAY  
Stonemouth  
BBC2, 9pm

Fans of cult novels were

Running the Shop, Tuesday, Channel 4, 8pm

devastated when Iain Banks, author of The Crow Road and The Wasp Factory, died in 2013, but his work continues to find a new audience – and this two-part romantic mystery, adapted from his bestseller of the same name, should attract a few more converts. Christian Cooke heads the cast as Stewart Gilmour, who was run out of his hometown of Stonemouth by his girlfriend Ellie's criminal family, the Murstons. Now two years on, he's returning for his best friend Callum's funeral, and Don Murston (Peter Mullan) makes it clear that he's still not welcome. Stewart doesn't want to leave until he gets to the bottom of Callum's apparent suicide, but as he digs deeper he uncovers some unsettling secrets and lies.

FRIDAY  
TFI Friday  
Channel 4, 9pm

Remember the heady, Brit Pop-soaked days of the mid-to-late 1990s? Then prepare to feel very nostalgic indeed, as the era's must-see TV show, TFI Friday, returns for an anniversary special. Okay, so the anniversary in question is its 19th – the series actually started in 1996 – but only fits in with the anarchic TFI vibe. Chris Evans is back as the presenter, along with all the old gang, including Danny Baker and Will Macdonald.

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- Railway • National Coal Board (Ncb) • Food • Rubber • Pipe Layers
- Ground Works... and many other noisy jobs.

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# Four-bedroom home with garden next to golf course



**COURTLANDS**, Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, is situated in an enviable location on a large parcel of land with an extensive landscaped rear garden, backing on to Halesowen Golf Course with Leasowes Park beyond.

It is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £399,950.

It has a porch, entrance hall, cloak store, through lounge with patio doors, dining room, kitchen opening to a breakfast room area, lobby, store, WC, side verandah, garage, a super large re-fitted bathroom with a white suite and four good sized bedrooms.

The gardens are a great feature of the property, having views, patio areas and extensive lawns. Call 0121 5503978 or visit the website www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



## Family house in ideal spot for commuters



THIS executive four-bedroomed detached family home at The Crucible, Coseley, is at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac within walking distance of the railway station and with easy access to the motorway network.

It is for sale through Swincoes Estate Agents at £199,950.

It has a hallway, lounge, dining room, good sized dining kitchen, utility, WC and garage, four bedrooms (en suite to the master) and a bathroom.

The property also has gas central heating, double glazing, driveway providing plenty of parking and a low maintenance garden.

For further information contact Swincoes on 01902 672274 or visit the www.swincoes.co.uk website.



# Wakeman

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DOWNING HOUSE, CATHOLIC LANE £349,950

SELDLEY •Modern detached house

•Four bedrooms

•Large breakfast kitchen

•Utility room, en-suite shower room

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C



7 CHARNWOOD AVENUE, SEDGLEY O/A £260,000

SELDLEY •Detached bungalow with three bedrooms

•Enjoying a wide plot at the head of a cul de sac

•L-shaped living room comprising living area & dining area

•Tandem garage with further garage, attractive gardens

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



3 HIMLEY AVENUE £165,000

DUDLEY •Semi detached house

•Three bedrooms

•Sitting room/bedroom four

•Pleasantly landscaped gardens

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



4 ELMWOOD RISE, SEDGLEY £249,950

SELDLEY •Detached house on the popular Northway Estate

•Four bedrooms with en suite shower room off bedroom one

•Extended breakfast kitchen, utility room & cloakroom

•Private attractively landscaped rear garden with excellent views

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C



£249,950

SELDLEY

•Traditional detached house with three bedrooms

•In need of some cosmetic updating works but offering potential

•Land with outline planning permission for detached bungalow at rear

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



94 ROBERT STREET, DUDLEY £210,000

SELDLEY •Traditional detached house with three bedrooms

•In need of some cosmetic updating works but offering potential

•Land with outline planning permission for detached bungalow at rear

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



£210,000



75 NORTHWAY £189,950

SELDLEY •Link detached house

•Well maintained & presented

•Three bedrooms

•Private rear garden

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



12 CHEVENING CLOSE O/A £189,950

SELDLEY •Modern detached bungalow

•Two large bedrooms, shower room

•Envious position at head of a cul de sac

•Pleasantly landscaped gardens

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



3 HIMLEY AVENUE £165,000

DUDLEY •Semi detached house

•Three bedrooms

•Sitting room/bedroom four

•Separate lounge & dining room

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



88 GROSVENOR ROAD £164,950

SELDLEY •Extended semi detached house

•Three bedrooms

•Downstairs shower room

•Larger than average private rear garden

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



55A SPRING ROAD £139,950

SELDLEY •Modern three bedroom detached house

•Extended, well maintained & attractively presented

•Situated in a pleasant cul-de-sac location

•Attached garage & easily maintained private rear garden

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



78 DEEPDALE LANE, LOWER GORNAL O/A £139,950

SELDLEY •Well presented semi detached house with three bedrooms

•Well presented accommodation with double glazing

•Having superb views at the rear towards the Shropshire hills.

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



£139,950



183 SEDGLEY ROAD O/A £139,950

SELDLEY •Modern semi detached house

•Three bedrooms

•Two reception rooms

•Rear driveway & garage

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



179 TIPTON ROAD £134,950

SELDLEY •Spacious Victorian terraced house

•Two large bedrooms & bathroom

•Secure parking at rear

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E



8 BEECHFIELD GROVE £129,950

SELDLEY •Extended semi detached house

•Three bedrooms

•Lounge/dining room

•180° shaped kitchen

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



2A LANGLEY AVENUE O/A £124,950

SELDLEY •Extended semi detached house

•Three bedrooms

•Extended kitchen

•Access to rear driveway

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING F



11 PRITCHETT AVENUE £111,950

SELDLEY •Modern semi detached house

•Three bedrooms

•Well proportioned accommodation

•Gas central heating

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



13 TURLS HILL ROAD D/A £99,950

SELDLEY •Edwaridian semi detached house

•Three bedrooms

•General updating & renovations works

•Two reception rooms, breakfast room

•SELDLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING G

Sedgley Office  
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01384 459999

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# Jon Stanier

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### QUARRY BANK ACRES ROAD

Enjoying a most pleasant position off a private driveway leading from this respected address, this individually designed Traditional 2 Bed Detached Bungalow provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and DOUBLE GLAZED accom with NO UPWARD CHAIN which briefly comprises:- Hall, Spacious Extended Lounge, Extended Dining Kitchen, 2 Good Bedrooms, sep Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bath, Shower Room, Pleasant Mature Rear Gardens, Useful Workshop and Driveway for 2/3 cars. EPC=E

Offers around £169,950



### PENSNETT BROMLEY

A well presented Modern 3 Bedroomed Intermediate Townhouse providing deceptively spacious gas centrally heated (not tested) UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer, young family or Investor and is very conveniently situated opposite Bromley Hill Primary School. Briefly comprises: Hall, spacious Lounge, attractively fitted Dining Kitchen with built-in appliances (not tested), 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom with shower, enclosed Rear Garden and Driveway to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC=E

Purchase Price £100,000



### TIVIDALE RED LION CLOSE

This delightfully presented, stylishly decorated Modern One Bed Ground Floor Flat provides deceptively spacious UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer, young family or Investor and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Includes: Entrance Hall, spacious Lounge opening to Stylish REFITTED KITCHEN with built-in oven and hob, Inner Hall with useful storage cupboards, Double Bedroom, SUMPTUOUS REFITTED BATHROOM, conveniently kept Gardens and Garage in separate block close by (requiring attention). EPC=E

Offers around £64,950



### BRIERLEY HILL HENZEL CROFT

This delightfully presented 3 Bed Semi provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED family accom set over 3 floors in this popular and very convenient cul-de-sac. Hall, Down W.C., spacious Lounge, superb fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, 2 Double First Floor bedrooms, fitted Bathroom, large Attic/Master Bedroom with Dressing Area and EN SUITE Shower Room off, Side Garage, pleasant lawned rear Garden and driveway to front. EPC=D

Offers around £162,500



### BRIERLEY HILL GOLDEN CROSS WAY

This superbly presented, thoroughly redecorated and re-carpeted Modern 3 Bed Townhouse provides refreshingly spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning family. Hall, Down W.C., spacious Lounge, sep Dining Area opening to attractively fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, 3 good Bedrooms (master with EN SUITE off), fitted Bathroom, pleasant low maintenance rear Garden and Driveway for 2 cars to the front. EPC=C

Offers around £139,950



### PENSNETT QUEEN STREET

A superbly presented, beautifully maintained 3 Bed Semi pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address and providing well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family. First Time Buyer or Investor. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Hall, Down W.C., spacious Lounge, sep Dining Area opening to attractively fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, superb re-appointed Bathroom, pleasant lawned rear Garden and Driveway for 2 cars to the front. EPC=C

Offers around £131,000



### DUDLEY WOOD DUDLEY WOOD ROAD

Pleasantly situated in this popular, respected address this spacious 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and mostly UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom which although requires certain upgrading and improvement represents an excellent opportunity for the young family. With NO UPWARD CHAIN. Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Lounge, sep Sitting / Dining room, Kitchen, 3 good sized Bedrooms, Bathroom, long side Garage, pleasant mature long rear Gardens with Westerly aspect and Driveway to the front. EPC=D

Offers around £129,950



### TIVIDALE FAIRWAY AVENUE

This attractively presented, lovingly maintained 2 Bed Semi-Detached provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family and is pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address. Hall, attractive Lounge, sep Dining Room, fitted Kitchen, 2 Double Bedrooms, fitted Kitchen/Utility Room with Down W.C., Useful Store and Workshop off, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, refitted Shower Room, pleasant rear Garden and neat Driveway to front. EPC=C

Offers around £129,950



### BRIERLEY HILL MOOR STREET

This superbly refurbished 3 Bed Semi provides outstanding spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family, First Time Buyer or Investor. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Hall, spacious Lounge, superb large Dining Kitchen with built-in oven, hob and extractor, Down W.C., 3 good Bedrooms, re-appointed "contemporary" styled Bathroom with shower, good sized rear Gardens with southerly facing aspect and foregarden (left ready for summer landscaping). EPC=D

Offers around £109,950



### PENSNETT HODNET DRIVE

Enjoying a wider than average frontage in this popular cul-de-sac this Modern 2 Bed Detached Townhouse provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer or young family. Viewing highly recommended with Hall, Spacious Lounge attractively refitted Dining Kitchen, 2 well proportioned Bedrooms, fitted Bathrooms and shower, lawned Rear and side Gardens and Driveway for 2 cars to the front. EPC=D

Offers around £96,000



### BRIERLEY HILL COOPER AVENUE

Attractively Presented Two Bed Semi-Detached in Popular Cul-de-sac. Gas Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazing. Hall, Lounge, Re-fitted Kitchen with oven, 2 Good Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom and Pleasant Rear Gardens with southerly facing aspect. No Pets/Smokers/DSS. Deposit £750 Available Immediately. Fees Apply EPC=E

£525 PCM EX



### DUDLEY GRANGE ROAD

Spacious One Bedrooomed Second Floor Flat in popular and convenient location. Gas Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazing. Hall, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom and Double Bedroom. Car Parking Space to Rear. No Pets/DSS/Smokers. Deposit £500. Available Immediately. Fees Apply. EPC=E

£325 PCM EX

## PROPERTY

# Modern three-bedroom detached in Wordsley

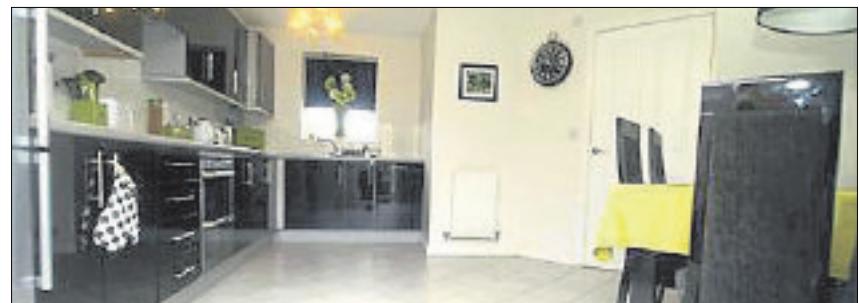


A DETACHED property on a recently built development, 49 Kirkpatrick Drive, Wordsley, is for sale through The Property Shop at £199,950.

Having spacious accommodation it briefly comprises an entrance hall, lounge, kitchen diner, downstairs WC, three bedrooms (with an en suite to master) and a bathroom.

he property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, off-road parking, garage and landscaped rear garden.

Contact The Property Shop on 01384 456 022 or visit website www.thepropertyshop.co.uk for details.



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## SEDLEY GORGE ROAD

- Impressive Detached Residence
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Stylish Fitted Kitchen
- Four Bathrooms
- Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Good Size Rear Garden
- Viewing Highly Recommended



£275,000



£375,000



## UPPER GORNAL VALE STREET

- Three Storey Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Living Room and Dining Room
- Kitchen and Laundrette
- Downstairs WC
- Bathroom
- Ensuite Shower Room
- Rear Garden
- VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



£240,000

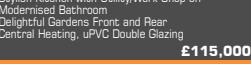


£169,000



## SEDLEY LYNDON CLOSE

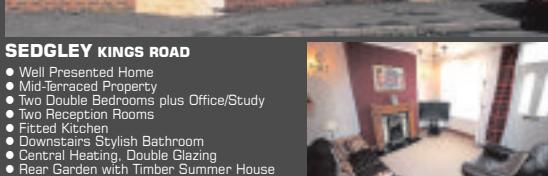
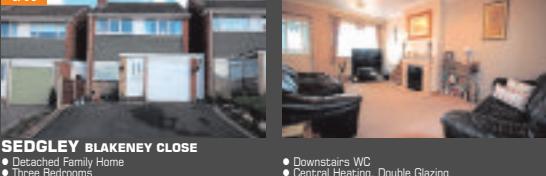
- Well Presented End-Terraced Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- 16ft. Living Room
- Dining Room



£115,000



£109,950



## SEDLEY BLAKENEY CLOSE

- Detached Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Spacious Living Room
- Fitted Dining Kitchen



£183,950



£109,950



## WOODSETTON ROPER WAY

- Delightful Location SEMI-DETACHED
- Two Bedrooms • Living Room, Dining Kitchen
- Stylish Bathroom • Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking plus Garage • Pleasant Rear



£165,000



£114,950

## COSELEY FLAXEN FIELD

- Luxury NEW Town Houses • Living Room
- Fitted Dining Kitchen • Ensuite Shower Room
- 3 Bedrooms (2 on First Floor, 1 on Second Floor)
- Downstairs WC & First Floor Bathroom

£114,950



£114,950

## UPPER GORNAL EDMUND ROAD

- Spacious Semi-Detached Home
- Two Bedrooms • Living Room
- Fitted Dining Kitchen • Off Road Parking
- Modern Bathroom • Private Rear Garden

£114,950



£114,950

## THE GREENS ELM GREEN

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge • Dining Kitchen
- Utility Area, Downstairs WC
- Bathroom • Off Road Parking

£114,950



£114,950

## UPPER GORNAL CLUB ROW

- Two Bedroom Detached Home
- Living Room • Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Useful Side Room • Stylish Bathroom
- Off Road Parking • Private Rear Garden

£114,950



£114,950

## WOODSETTON FOX STREET

- Four Bedroom Detached Property
- Spacious Living Room • Fitted Kitchen
- Dining Room plus Conservatory
- Downstairs WC • Luxury Bathroom

£245,000

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**KINGSWINFORD, Stream Road**

A HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL DOUBLE FRONTED DETACHED FAMILY HOME with a LARGE INDOOR HEATED SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX. Set beyond the VERY LARGE & RECENT BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY with ELECTRIC GATES, well placed within this desirable location, providing BEAUTIFULLY REAPPOINTED and GENEROUS ACCOMMODATION, plus a GARAGE with office above and a BEAUTIFULLY SECLUDED REAR GARDENS. EPC D

**£445,000**



**KINGSWINFORD, Penzer Street**

This INDIVIDUAL ARCHITECT DESIGN DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE offers a FLEXIBLE, UP TO 5 or a 3 BEDROOM – plus - GROUND FLOOR ANNEXE LAYOUT, all pleasantly located with a GENEROUS, SECLUDED SUNNY GARDEN within this mature, respected address near park and noted schools. EPC D

**£294,950**



**DUDLEY, Never Close, Milking Bank**

ENVIAILY SITUATED in highly favoured cul de sac; EXTENDED, gas centrally, double glazed FIVE BEDROOM detached home comprising; hall, lounge, dining room, double glazed conservatory, 'hub of the house' 17ft kitchen, cloakroom, pantry. Five bedrooms (principal bedroom with both fitted and built in wardrobes & shower room en suite), bathroom. Garage, sheltered rear garden. EPC:D SEDGLEY

**Offers in the Region of £255,000**



**TIPTON, Woodcroft Avenue**

Imposing, EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached upon WIDE PLOT at head of cul de sac in favoured district briefly comprising; entrance vestibule, reception hall, store, 18'8" through lounge, dining room, wet/cellarette, large 17' breakfast kitchen and a further utility room. Three bedrooms, shower room (former bathroom) with white suite. Large double garage, extensive gardens. EPC: TBA. SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £250,000**



**LOWER GORNAL, Winrush Close**

SPACIOUS, stylish, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed four (potentially five) bedroom detached convenient for the village with lengthy garden & distant views. Accommodation set over three floors provides; hall, cloaks, family room/alternative bedroom, lounge, kitchen, dining room, conservatory. Four bedrooms (principal with en suite), bathroom, garden. EPC:TBA. SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £235,000**



**DUDLEY, Yarner Close, Milking Bank**

ENVIAILY SITUATED! Gas centrally heated, double glazed Detached upon favoured section of the development with NO UPWARD CHAIN comprising; entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, upgraded kitchen & matching upgraded utility section, pantry, cloakroom. FOUR bedrooms (principle room with wardrobes & shower room en suite), refitted bathroom, garage, garden. EPC:D. SEDGLEY

**Offers in the region of £235,000**



**LOWER GORNAL, Haslingden Crescent**

RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED! THREE DOUBLE BEDROOM detached by David Wilson Homes with panoramic distant views. Stylish gas centrally heated, double glazed accommodation provides hall, cloakroom, breakfast kitchen, lounge (with double French doors out to garden), THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS (with en-suite to principal bedroom), bathroom. Garage, garden. EPC C. SEDGLEY

**WAS £217,500, NOW £212,000**



**WALL HEATH, Kidderminster Road**

A VERY DISTINCTIVE TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE within this highly sought after address, close to excellent schooling, offering a very generous THREE DOUBLE BEDROOM layout with EXCELLENT POTENTIAL FOR MODERNISATION, plus DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and an attractive rear garden. EPC D

**£199,950**



**WOMBOURNE, Wombourne Park**

A SUPERB 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE all RECENTLY & BEAUTIFULLY RE APPPOINTED THROUGHOUT, including a ground floor wet/ shower room plus LARGE CONSERVATORY. Set beyond the LARGE DRIVEWAY with side GARAGE and a Large Private Rear Garden. EPC E

**New price**

**£199,950**

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LOWER GORNAL, Woodland Grove

Just off Brick Kiln Lane; EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, primarily uPVC double glazed detached comprising; hall, lounge, dining room, store, kitchen, utility room, cloak/shower room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £189,950



WOODSETTON, Westerdale Close (Off Brook Street)

ENVIRABLY SITUATED; gas centrally heated, primarily uPVC double glazed detached bungalow (backing on to fields) requiring some sympathetic updating, and briefly comprising; reception hall, two double bedrooms (both with wardrobes), 17 ft living/dining room (with patio doors out to the garden), kitchen. Garage, delightful sheltered garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £190,000, NOW £185,000



SEDGLEY, Brownwall Road, Brownwall estate

Attractive gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached in highly favoured district convenient. Superb accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, transverse upgraded and enlarged hub of the house; dining kitchen with updated units and various appliances. Three generous bedrooms, upgraded bathroom. Lengthy 22' garage, secluded level rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £163,500



WOLVERHAMPTON, Waverley Crescent, Ettingshall Park

A conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached house benefitting from well-appointed lounge, extended dining room, good-sized modern kitchen, 31' tandem garage, family bathroom, driveway and enclosed rear garden. Viewing Essential. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £154,950



WOODSETTON, Roper Way

A much improved and beautifully presented, EXTENDED, uPVC double glazed and gas centrally heated modern starter home benefiting from THREE BEDROOMS, living room, dining room, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden and parking for multiple vehicles to the front. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £134,950



Brierley Hill, Gordon Crescent

THIS ATTRACTIVE, TRADITIONAL HOME IS DECEPTIVELY LARGE WITH THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS and makes a lovely FAMILY HOME. Also Comprising: Hall, Modern Kitchen, Dining Space, Sitting Room, Contemporary Bathroom, Driveway, Rear Garden EPC D

£129,950



DUDLEY, Vanborough Walk, London Heights

A significantly EXTENDED gas centrally heated (not tested) and uPVC double glazed semi detached with further potential conveniently situated in popular district. Accommodation includes reception hall, lounge, extended 19'4" second reception room, extended/upgraded 23ft2 breakfast kitchen, lobby, cloakroom, three bedrooms, possible garage space, garden. No upward chain. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price WAS £125,000, NOW £120,000

PRICE £115,000



COSELEY, Ettingshall Road

Attractive, gas centrally heated, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED semi detached that has been conscientiously maintained over the years but would benefit from some sympathetic updating comprising: hall, store, lounge 'with garden room' beyond, dining room, kitchen, vestibule, WC, store & wet/shower room. Three bedrooms, bathroom, garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £110,000



DUDLEY, Denbigh Close

Beautifully presented, Freehold, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, two bedroom mid townhouse that will particularly appeal to first time buyers comprising: hall, lounge with attractive fireplace with marble effect inset & hearth and 'living flame' gas fire, Kitchen diner. Two bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite. Garden, parking space. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £114,950, NOW £109,950



COSELEY, Hospital Lane

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**FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5th AND 6th JUNE AT 9.45am**



### 1 MOUNT ROAD, PENN

Well located Detached, Porch, Hall, 26ft Through Lounge, Kitchen. Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH, upvc windows, off-road parking. Rear Garden approx. 120ft. depth. epc: E.48

**Guide: £130,000 / £135,000**

#### VIEWING

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5th AND 6th JUNE AT 11.30am**



### 33 MARTIN STREET WOLVERHAMPTON

Well presented Mid Terraced, enclosed Porch, Two Reception, smart Kitchen, large Landing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH., upvc windows long Rear Garden. epc: C.69

**Guide: £68,000 / £73,000**

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**FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5th AND 6th JUNE AT 10.45am**



### 19 EASTCROFT ROAD PENN

Established residential area – set well back from road Porch, Hall, Two Reception, Kitchen, Lobby, WC., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, upvc windows, Large 18ft. workshop area, pleasant Rear Garden with open outlook beyond. epc: E.42

**Guide: £58,000 / £63,000**

#### VIEWING

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5th AND 6th JUNE AT 12.15pm**



### 19 WEST PARK COURT CONNAUGHT ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Conveniently yet discreetly situated Ground Floor Flat, Hall with fitted cupboards, Lounge overlooking grounds, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, Gas CH., upvc windows, Garage. epc: D.63

**Guide: £58,000 / £63,000**

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# Warm blast with this wind

By John Griffiths

**It's a tough life: soon after Volkswagen unveils its ultimate sporting model to put at the top of your wish list, VW comes up with another.**

This is the new Scirocco R, a low sleek and purposeful coupe which, under the skin, has much in common with the flagship Golf R. But it's lower, wider and with its distinctive coupe styling just one glance is enough to tell you this is a car with sporting pretensions.

Once behind the wheel, in the cockpit-like driver's position, you very rapidly become aware this is no empty promise: stunning acceleration and super sharp handling make a sporting dream become reality.

Lower and wider than the Golf, on the road it's potent but composed. It's hard to explain but it just feels so right.

The prices are similar (£32,035 for the Scirocco) so if you're lucky enough to be in this area of the market it comes down to personal choice, and perhaps a little more practicality in the Golf's hatchback body if you're a family man.

Under the Scirocco's bonnet is VW's renowned 2.0 litre turbocharged petrol engine, producing a whopping 280PS of power and 350Nm of torque, which explains its 5.3 seconds for the 0 to 62mph acceleration time. That's with the dual clutch DSG auto transmission – the six speed manual is four tenths slower.

That's slightly down on the comparable Golf, which has an extra 20PS

under the right foot, but neither are likely to have much practical effect on ordinary roads.

The Scirocco was designed as a coupe in the traditional sense and there are not too many competitors in this class if you compare performance and price.

This latest version has been refined and modernised with new headlights, fog lights and daytime running lights (LEDs are optional), LED taillights, and a redesigned front bumper which now features an aerodynamic blade or splitter.

Inside, the dashboard has been updated with new-look dials and auxiliary instruments in a pod above the centre console, a tribute to the 1974 original.

## Pleasant

There's a real sporting ambience as you slide into the beautifully shaped and low-slung leather sports seats, with instruments falling easily to hand. Visibility is good, despite the low seating, and there's an upmarket feel.

The soundtrack is a pleasant rasp under acceleration, but it's slightly muted and not so loud as to be tiresome on the sort of long journey this car would make light work of.

The boot is impressive for a coupe (343 litres with the rear seats up, 1,233 seats down). There's quite a lip to lift luggage over but somehow as the car is already low slung it doesn't seem so bad.

The Scirocco is fitted with VW's adaptive chassis with comfort, normal and sport settings, allowing you to choose throttle response, damper rates and steering map.

In practice 'Normal' is perfect for



most conditions, providing a good balance between composed ride and the sort of sharp, precise handling you expect from a dedicated sports model.

Sporting mode, naturally, firms things up so you get a harder ride for dynamic benefits you shouldn't really need on public roads, as the normal setting does the job perfectly well.

It feels quick and eager to turn in, assisted by a sophisticated electronic differential system which very effectively eliminates the dual demons of powerful front wheel drive cars – understeer and torque steer. It's also wider and lower than the Golf, imparting even more to its inherent stability.

The Scirocco R, equipped with the excellent DSG transmission is slightly quicker than the manual, 0 to 62mph sprint in 5.3 seconds. But equally, if not more important, is its impressive in-gear performance in the 40 to 60mph and 50 to 70mph overtaking brackets: it is certainly a car for making progress on our congested roads.

Average fuel consumption is 35.3mpg according to official figures, but that of course depends on driving style. Its CO2 rating is 187g/km, which under current rules puts it in the 30 per cent bracket for benefit in kind tax.

If you want good looks and fun for less money, the latest Scirocco de-

sel at may appeal. It's still a quick car (0 to 62mph in 7.5 seconds) but it's capable of averaging a pretty staggering 64.2mpg. That's a CO2 figure of 115g/km – better than some small family hatchbacks – and you BIK tax liability falls to 19 per cent of the lower £28,375 purchase price. Insurance will cost less, too.

The mighty R version sits at the top of a four-model range, although all come with a comprehensive package of safety systems including six airbags, electronic stability control and differential systems, ABS with brake assist, traction control and parking sensors. It is distinguished by larger,

19-inch alloys for its low profile tyres. Inside, you get standard features such as dual zone climate control, multifunction computer, electric front windows and mirrors, automatic headlights, multifunction steering wheel and a touchscreen control for navigation, audio and communications systems.

It is a distinctly different offering, no doubt part of its attraction, and the range will be complemented soon by the new, 220PS Scirocco S.

With the recent raft of upgrades to the family, VW is aiming to broaden the appeal and build on the car's sound fan base.

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0206

# Ford Focus is getting even better

By Anthony Martyn

Every once in a while, a car is launched that instantly makes all of its rivals look stupid and old. Ford pulled off that particular trick back in 1998, when it launched the Mk 1 Focus. The way it drove was a revelation, and now we are on the fourth incarnation.

Ford has subtly tweaked the handling, making changes to the suspension to improve the ride and slightly lightening the steering. As a result, it's a better long-distance travelling companion.

The engine range has also been much revised. Let's start with petrol power. Though at the foot of the range, it's still possible to get the old-tech 1.6-litre Ti-VCT unit in 85, 105 and 125PS guises, the mainstream petrol line-up is these days primarily based around the brand's clever 1.0-litre three cylinder turbo EcoBoost unit, offered with either 100 or 125PS.

Above that now sits a 1.5-litre EcoBoost unit, offered with either 150 or 182PS. EcoBoost technology is also used in the hot hatch models, with a 2.0-litre 250PS unit used in the Focus ST and a 2.3-litre 320PS powerplant used in the top Focus RS.

Those in search of a diesel have a choice between the old-tech 1.6-litre TDCi units, offering either 95 or 115PS. Or newtech 1.5-litre TDCi engines offering either 95 or 120PS. Make sure you know what you're getting.

Above these, there's an uprated 150PS 2.0-litre TDCi unit, also offered in 185PS guise to Focus ST buyers. Otherwise, the only other option is the intriguing Focus Electric model which uses a combination of a 107kW electric motor and a 23kW lithium-ion battery to deliver a useful 142PS and 250Nm of torque.

Many will baulk at the restricted 100-mile driving range though.

### Distinctive

It's only when you put this improved Focus next to the original third generation version that you realise just how much more expensive this model looks.

The most obvious change is the addition of an Aston Martin-style trapezoidal front grille, there to give the front end a more distinctive look also emphasised by subtle chrome detailing and these slimmer, smarter front headlights and reduced foglamps.

The interior has also been given a serious once-over. The fascia design is more intuitive, that button-strewn centre stack and steering wheel being tidied up considerably.

The black satin trim and chrome detailing contribute to a cleaner aesthetic too. Many of the controls are now marshalled by the SYNC 2 high-resolution, 8in colour touch screen system. This includes voice control for 'easier' access to audio, navigation, climate control and compatible mobile phones.

One thing that's undoubtedly an improvement is practicality. The centre storage console offers more space as well as a new sliding, integrated armrest, accommodating a variety of bottles and cups with the capacity to simultaneously hold a litre water bottle and a 400ml cup.

It's actually quite hard to know where to start when trying to explain the Focus model range to an unfamiliar buyer. It is, after all, so vast. Still, we'll do our best. The simplest aspect is the availability of just two bodystyles, a five-door hatch or, for a model-for-model premium of around £1,100, a smartly-styled estate option.

Most of the mainstream petrol variants offer the option of automatic transmission too. It's the under-the-bonnet issues though, that require Focus buyers to really know the ropes when it comes to the selection process.

Let me explain why.

'Focus' is the world's best selling global nameplate – with good reason. Has any car had more of an impact on modern era motoring than the Ford Focus?

With over 12 million global sales on the board, it's hard to argue the point.

# Standard equipment on 1 Series better than ever before

By Ian Donaldson

When a car as important to BMW as its 1 Series hatchback comes around for a refresh you can bet the designers laboured long into the night on the tiniest detail. How about making the exhaust pipe a little bit fatter because it gives the back of the car a more sporty look?

Tick that one off among a host of changes to a model that claims one in five sales to British buyers of new BMWs and is expected to find 30,000 homes here each year.

You need to be a bit of a BMW anorak to spot the new tailpipe but changes to the lights at both ends give the latest 1 Series a wider, bolder look.

Inside, the cockpit is still aimed at serious drivers but there's a modest injection of extra pizzazz with added gloss black and splashes of chrome.

But it's under the surface where BMW has made its more important changes, starting with the choice of a new diesel engine (largely shared with a Mini Cooper D) that promises more than adequate performance and startling (theoretical) economy.

More powerful diesels are offered too, along with a range of petrol engines that climax with the M135i and its 155mph potential.

And for those critics who said BMWs were too meanly equipped for the money, comes news that every new car from the company – from cheapest 1 Series upward – will have satellite navigation as standard by September.

## Generous

That doesn't mean you will be short of the chance to spend extra on options, of which there is long list, from metallic paint (£550) and a £600 sound system upgrade to active cruise control (£790) and a £330 reversing camera.

Even so, standard kit across the new range (which extends from £20,245 to £31,730 at the moment) is more generous than reputation has, ranging from DAB radio and Bluetooth to a big colour screen on the dash, climate control and LED lights at the rear.

Most buyers are happy to pay £1,000 more for a Sport package of different alloys, steering wheel and body styling tweaks or even find £2,700 for an M Sport package of bigger alloys, LED headlights, styling additions and firmer suspension.

Whichever version you end up with it will be a notably well finished car with plenty of room in the front, adequate space in the rear for grown-ups and a reasonably sized boot. If you need extra space at the expense of losing that sporty feel, BMW will happily point you towards the new 2 Series mini MPV.

Out on the road in the most economical version of this latest 1 Series you soon enjoy the characteristic thrum from its three-cylinder diesel engine (distant but mildly sporty) and relish the way it moves the car with enthusiasm.

A crispy, firm gearchange and well-weighted steering combine with a ride that stays firmly in control without ever descending to discomfort to make this a car that covers ground with real enthusiasm.

And with fine economy too. A brisk drive over some challenging Wiltshire roads saw 57mpg on the trip computer, with a gentler session tipping the figure well into the 60s. That's a commendable figure and a realistic aim for a long term owner too.

The £395 worth of front sports seats were superbly comfortable, lacking only adjustable lumbar support (£230 extra) as a final flourish.

Even so, here is a car that looks set to keep BMW dealers and buyers happy for years to come.



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By Matt Joy

It's one of the most famous name tags in motoring and still the fastest selling car ever made. But more importantly, it's now being sold in the UK in right-hand-drive.

A new Mustang is news in itself, as it is one of the most iconic sports cars ever made and has a loyal following on both sides of The Pond. But this sixth-generation model is something more than that, because it has been designed to work in Europe – and even the UK – too.

The platform is new and the whole car is more sophisticated than before, while there's a choice of a 5.0-litre V8 as well as a more 21st Century option in the shape of a 2.3-litre four-cylinder turbo offering. There's a choice of coupe and convertible from the outset, and the whole car attempts to mix classic Mustang cues with modern sophistication.

The manner in which the 2015 Mustang manages to evoke memories of the 1965 original, but without slavishly copying it, is impressive.

It has great stance and impact on the road; whether it's parked or driving past, it's hard not to turn and look. The same goes for the inside, where the classic twin-cowl dashboard and toggle switches are present, although happily the retro theme isn't overdone.

The Mustang has one of the strongest images of any performance car and is still seen by many as the original low-cost, high-fun piece of escapism, and the latest version ticks all the right boxes to keep fans happy.

The Mustang is a relatively big car but with the focus on looks and performance, practicality inevitably takes a back seat.

Up front, the space on offer is decent, and taller drivers will be able to get comfortable; the standard sports seats are excellent. In the back, it's more compromised, and only short adults and children will be able to get comfortable as headroom is limited. The boot however is good with 408 litres of space on offer.

### Handling

The original Mustang was fast, cheap and relatively simple, and while things have certainly moved on, the 2015 version isn't a million miles away.

Anyone buying one looking for the last word in Nurburgring-honed handling might be disappointed, but if it's responsive, you're after then it's spot-on. The 5.0-litre V8 is responsive, pushing it along with real purpose and venom when pressed and the noise is good too.

There are three different steering modes as well as driving modes, and with everything at its sharpest, the Mustang will happily play the hooligan.

In fact, it even has a Line-Lock mode, borrowed directly from the dragstrip, where the front brakes can be locked on so you can smoke the rear tyres. It sums up everything you need to know about this car and how it is the complete opposite of ultra-techie German rivals.

This is where the Mustang scores particularly well.

As well as an excellent standard specification, it is the bare bones that really drive the point home.

A 2+2 coupe with a V8 engine and a 0-62mph time of five seconds or less doesn't come cheap; there isn't a rival under £50,000.

There are rivals that are close on price and specification, but they can't compete with the Mustang's personality.

You could use the Mustang every day if you can handle the fuel bills, but really it is a car to be enjoyed by everyone.

Young or old, man or woman, the Mustang ethos is something that anyone can buy in to, and with such competitive pricing, it's hard not to be enticed. Clearly lots of other people think so, as the 2015 UK allocation is already sold out and if you want one you're looking at April 2016. You never know, it might even make a decent investment...

This car summed up in a single word: Genuine.

If this car was a drink, it would be a Kentucky Bourbon – naturally.

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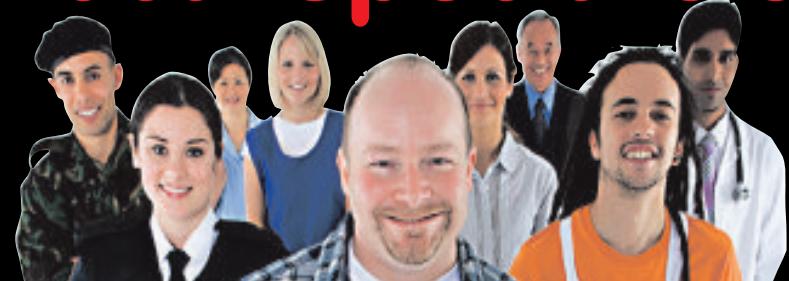
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- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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**VAUXHALL VECTRA** 1.8 16V SXI, 51 plate, red

## Runners travel far and wide to compete

ATHLETES from Dudley King-swinford Running Club travelled to opposite ends of the country looking for competition.

With very little on the local calendar runners had to travel in search of races and few travelled as far as Scotland to pull on the blue hooded vest and as the spring marathon season came to a close Dave Norman journeyed to Edinburgh for a date with the 26.2 mile distance.

The conditions were unpleasant with a severe weather warning issued by the organisers on the previous evening and gale force winds in excess of 35 miles per hour on the day put paid to any PB chances with the last seven miles run into a headwind.

Despite this he was still able to finish in 3:14.08 to take 348th place in a field in excess of 7,000 to claim a qualifying time for next year's London Marathon.

Acting as unofficial support crew but also competing over the half marathon distance James Wright finished in 1:23.50 to take 95th place and Kieran Pitt was 708th in 1:36.39, both performing well in the conditions.

At the other end of the country Ben Foster travelled south for the Bristol 10k, a high-quality field and the promise of a fast course proving a tempting prospect for the DK runner who finished 57th in 33.43. A time only seconds slower than his distance PB.

A little closer to home Simon Blizzard competed in the Great Midlands Fun Run, an 8.5 mile race at Sutton Park, finishing in 56.50, a time almost 10 minutes quicker than recorded over the same course two years ago.

## Jamieson is making a big impression

HALESOWEN Cycling Club's Jamieson Blain, aged 13, continues to show how he is developing into an accomplished rider with an impressive showing in a recent race.

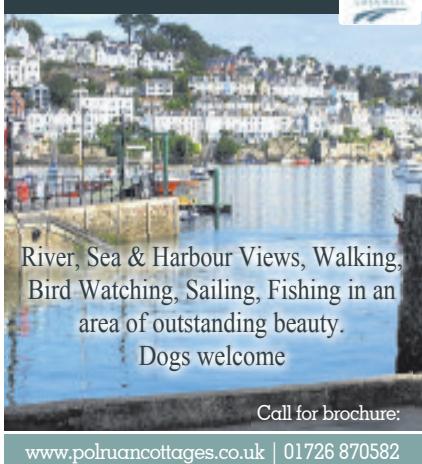
He finished a fine fourth overall in the Screen Tech Youth Tour U-14 age group race which took place over four stages on the Preston Circuit recently.

Blain was the leading Halesowen rider from the club team which included Liam Allen, Luke Harris, Ella Harris, Alex Barker and Daniel Barker.

The Halesowen youngsters are all looking forward to riding in the Halesowen Friday Night Track League.

The league is due to resume on Friday June 12 at the Manor Abbey Cycle Track.

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# Take nothing for granted warning

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger is warning his riders to take nothing for granted when his squad of riders come up against Kent as they visit Perry Barr next Wednesday.

The Heathens have met their rivals this season and have already secured an away win over the Kings and now the team are hunting down a league double against the Sittingbourne side.

But Pottinger insists the Heathens win in Kent was helped by the timing and nothing will be easy next week when they come for the return bout, when he is convinced they will come looking for revenge.

"We won at Kent earlier in the season when they hadn't really got off the mark and were struggling

through injuries of their own," explained Pottinger. "That was an important four points for us and that result could prove so, so vital come the end of the season.

"But I'm sure Kent will be out to get some revenge so we'll certainly have to be on our guard."

"They've got a good top end to their team with Ben Morley, James Shanes and Aaron Baseby and Danny Ayres is also in good scoring form too so they're all capable of putting in good performances on their day."

"We need to make sure we're all at it if we want to pick up three more league points and keep our unbeaten league start at Perry Barr going."

"It's disappointing that we'll have had to wait a fortnight from our last meeting to race again so hopefully some of the boys will be able to get practising and hopefully some of the others can get some good scores for their Premier League teams."

"After Kent, we've got two really big meetings in Mordenhall and Birmingham who are both going to be challenging come the end of the season," added Pottinger.

"So we need to be looking at making sure we do pick up all three league points available next Wednesday to give us a tiny bit of breathing space and keep us in a good position."

The action begins at 7.30pm.

# Anichebe facing fitness challenge

DAVE KEMP admits one of Albion's challenges for next season is to keep Victor Anichebe fit.

At 27, the powerful striker has made just 80 league starts in his career after a series of niggling injuries and only 22 for Albion since his £6m signing from Everton two years ago.

Anichebe has managed only 45 top-flight appearances for the Baggies out of 76 in the last two seasons, scoring six times.

And Kemp admits the former Everton man needs to be available much more if he is to realise his considerable potential in his peak years. "If you look at his career he hasn't played enough," said Kemp.

"Whether we can get him on the pitch more, we'll have to wait and see, but when he's played, he's had some really good games."

"Once we got him fit he started to make an impact and that's very pleasing."

"But he was injured when we came, so it's about getting him up to speed."

"We'd have liked to have used him more but he wasn't fit."

### Wake

Meanwhile, in the wake of Villa's run to the FA Cup final at the weekend, Kemp has reiterated boss Tony Pulis' aim to see Albion at Wembley.

The pair led Stoke to the FA Cup final in 2011 when they lost to Manchester City.

Albion won the last of their five FA Cups in 1968 and haven't triumphed in the League Cup since their only success in 1966.

But while he admits chasing the billionaire-funded cream of the Premier League might be beyond them, Kemp believes cup success is a realistic ambition for the Baggies.

"Winning a cup should not be out of the reach of this club sometime in the future. It depends how strongly the opposition go," he said.

"I wouldn't want to start saying 'we can do this or that' and I don't want to start setting targets, but progress can hopefully include good cup runs."

"It's about progress – as in not being down the bottom of the Premier League."

"But I don't know what is achievable quite frankly."

## Amateur golfer John wins through



Amateur golfer John Stevens, from Netherton, who has won the Sinclair Audi Invitational

AMATEUR golfer John Stevens, from Netherton, has won the Sinclair Audi Invitational which was staged at The Vale Resort GC, Hensol Park, Hensol, with a score of 36-points in the Stableford rules matches over 18-holes.

The top qualifiers from this event will now pair up in a Regional Final at The Celtic Manor in Wales on July 28.

The one-day qualifying competi-

tion supported by Audi Centres in Bridgend, Swansea and Neyland, was one of almost 50 Audi quattro Cup Invitational events being staged throughout the UK.

Seven Regional Finals are held in July and August with the top 18 pairs going forward to the Audi quattro Cup UK Final at Bowood Golf & Country Club near Calne, Wiltshire on September 3.

The Audi quattro Cup, being run for the 25th year, is the world's largest amateur golf competition with almost 100,000 players from over 50 countries competing.

## Resistance frustrates skipper in derby battle

HALESOWEN skipper Faisal Shahid admitted he was frustrated by the resistance of neighbours Stourbridge after seeing the teams draw at the weekend.

A stunning innings of 93 from just 53 balls from wicketkeeper Wes Griffiths proved to be in vain as the visitors just held on with some stubborn batting.

After losing the toss the home side were put into bat by Stourbridge and it was the skipper who got the innings off to a steady start with youngster Jujhar Johal.

The opening partnership was worth 44 when Shahid, back in some sort of form after his difficulties of recent weeks, was first out for 28 after getting a leading edge to the bowling of Stourbridge's young seamer Zain Ul Hassan.

Johal was happy to play the anchor role until he was dismissed for 11 quickly followed by overseas star Tarryck Gabriel (1) who was beaten in the flight by a delivery from his Stourbridge and St. Lucian counterpart Audi Alexander.

Former Brockhampton duo Ben Stebbings and Will Barrett moved the total into three figures before Stebbings (36) was out to a fine catch on the boundary by Ul Hassan of the bowling of spinner James Wood.

That set the scene for Griffiths to enter and plunder the Stourbridge bowling in one of the most aggressive displays of hitting seen at Seth Somers Park in years.

After losing the wicket of Barrett (32) Griffiths' innings, which contained seven sixes and seven fours, single-handily took Halesowen to a total of 241-8 and maximum batting points off their allotted 55 overs.

## Paul swings through to the pairings

AMATEUR golfer Paul Wooldridge, from Sedgley near Dudley, has won the Jardine Midlands Audi Invitational staged at the Astbury Hall GC, Chelmarsh, Bridgnorth, with a score of 40-points in the Stableford rules matches over 18-holes.

The top qualifiers from this event will now pair up in a Regional Final at The Belfry Golf Club in Warwickshire on July 29.

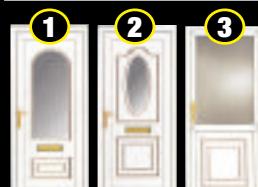
The one-day qualifying competition supported by Audi Centres in Halesowen, Shrewsbury, Tamworth and Wolverhampton, was one of almost 50 Audi quattro Cup Invitational events being staged throughout the UK last month.

Seven Regional Finals are held in July and August with the top 18 pairs going to the UK Final at Bowood Golf & Country Club near Calne, Wiltshire on September 3.

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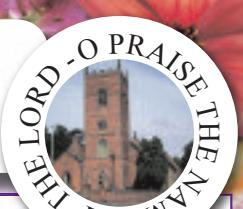
Church Open 10.00 am - 5.00 pm  
Craft Fair 10.00 am - 4.30 pm  
LIVE MUSIC 7.30 pm Concert with Brian Perkins and Guests  
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**Sunday 14th June**

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## Hutton will focus on the positives

VILLA full-back Alan Hutton is determined to focus on the positives – despite his side suffering the equal worst FA Cup final defeat since 1903.

Only Chelsea in 1994 and Brighton & Hove Albion in 1983, both to Manchester United, have suffered the ignominy of a 4-0 Cup final reverse – and the latter only after it went to a replay.

But Hutton believes there is plenty to be thankful for after Tim Sherwood saved Villa from Premier League relegation and guided them to the final of the world's oldest and most famous domestic cup competition for the first time since 2000.

"We have to take the positives – we were stood up and got to a final," said the defender.

"When the new manager came in, things turned and there's a lot of positives about us, so we need to strengthen the squad and see where we can go."

As well as targeting the transfer market, the 30-year-old knows the current side need to work even harder to make sure the Villans do not find themselves back in a battle to avoid the drop next year.

"Everyone knows the squad needs to be strengthened and every squad needs to have competition for places," he said. "We have to do better, improve ourselves and train as hard as we can."

Although Villa came up short on the day, the Scottish international – who has revived his Villa career after ending last season on loan at Bolton in the Championship – was keen to heap praise on to the victors of the day.

"Arsenal are a world-class team – you can't take anything away from them because they have quality all over the pitch," he said.

## Wallace looks to reach a new level under boss Jackett

JED WALLACE admits he has been 'blown away' by the scale of Wolves' ambition as he revealed his Molineux move is a dream come true.

The £275,000 signing from Portsmouth believes he can take his game to a whole new level after confessing he has been bowled over by his new surroundings.

"Wolves blew me away with their ambition. It was unbelievable," said the 21-year-old attacking midfielder.

"After walking around there for two or three hours and speaking to people, I was thinking it was a move which can take my game to a whole new level."

"Molineux is unbelievable and I couldn't be happier – it's the best feeling to sign for a club like that."

"They're going for the Premier League – they're gunning for it. Kenny Jackett has given me a chance and to play at a club like that in that division is a dream come true. If I do well here, my career can really take off, like I always wanted it to. Wolves went out of their way to make me feel welcome."

He believes he can rival the 17 goals he scored for Pompey last season.

## Anichebe faces fitness challenge

Page 47

## Golfer shows his winning ways

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## Sanchez' goal was the killer – Given

SHAY Given admitted he will need to watch Alexis Sanchez's Cup final wonder strike on video – and believes the second goal was the most crucial of Saturday's showpiece.

The 39-year-old Irishman made some vital saves in the final, but they proved all in vain after Theo Walcott's opener was added to by Sanchez's stunner, Per Mertesacker's header and Olivier Giroud's late tap-in.

Given – who was in goal for Newcastle when they lost the 1998 Cup final to Arsenal – hailed the Gunners' display, but insists had it not been for the intervention of Sanchez then Villa may

### Football

still have been able to at least force extra-time. "We were very much in the game and if we could have kept it to 1-0, even in the last minute, we would have had half a chance," he said.

"But Sanchez is a great player. I'll have to see the video, but it's moved all over the place and gone in off the bar."

"He's a special player and that's what special players can do. It knocked the stuffing out of us."

Given added: "Arsenal are a great team, they deserved to win the game. It's tough to say that,

but it's the truth and it's not a nice feeling."

And after Villa's resurgence saw them avoid relegation from the Premier League, Given admitted defeats to Southampton, Burnley and now Arsenal ended the campaign on a low note.

"It was not a nice way to finish but I'll meet up with the squad this week and I've got two big games coming up for Ireland, so I'd better get my head right for them," said Given, who overcame a groin problem to play at Wembley.

"The next couple of days will be low for myself and the lads, but we've got to go again and come back stronger next season."

## Mantom hits out at too soft claim

MIDFIELDER Sam Mantom has rejected claims Walsall are 'too soft' as he sets sights on a promotion challenge next season.

The Saddlers finished top of the League One Fair Play table for the second year running and have been criticised at times for a lack of aggression.

Goalkeeper Richard O'Donnell, who is set to leave the club after agreeing terms with Wigan, claimed they needed to develop 'nasty streak' in order to climb the league.

But Mantom insists there is no lack of passion in the dressing room.

"I wouldn't say we were too soft – maybe people are looking at the last half an hour against Bristol City," he said. "That was a very weird ending to the season."

"The gaffer and the staff have put a training ground in place where it's a pleasure to go to work."

"Everyone who has come here has improved but we want to be successful and we want to get promoted."

"Don't get me wrong, when things go wrong, people stand up and be counted."

"Words are said behind closed doors. People won't say it in public but it does happen, just like I think it happens at every club."

The Saddlers picked up just 45 bookings during the course of the season while Adam Chambers was the only player to be dismissed, though his red card in the 1-0 FA Cup defeat to Shrewsbury was rescinded.

Mantom, meanwhile, is aiming to hit the ground running after missing much of the season with a knee injury. The 23-year-old was named player of the year for the 2013/14 campaign but didn't play his first full game until March.

## Whiley brings in a world bronze

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley sealed Great Britain's women's bronze medal in the BNP Paribas World Team Cup for the sixth time in seven years.

At the flagship team wheelchair tennis event – held in Antalya, Turkey – world number nine Lucy Shuker got Britain's challenge under way.

World number five Whiley completed a 2-0 win over Germany when she defeated world number eight Katharina Kruger 7-5 7-5.

"I'm very proud of the team for pulling it out of the bag after what's been a tough week," said Whiley, who will now head to Roland Garros for this year's French Open, where she will attempt to win her sixth successive Grand Slam.

★★★ The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.

Thursday, June 4, 2015



# GUNNERS SHOW THEIR FOUR-CE

Arsenal 4 Villa 0

**IT was a day that promised much but delivered so painfully little.**

Villa fans may have walked along Wembley Way in hope rather than expectation before the start of the 134th FA Cup final.

But never, in their worst nightmares, would they have believed their biggest day out in more than 20 years would turn into such disappointment.

In the modern era of football, where winning trophies is becoming increasingly difficult for anyone outside the top four, trips to Wembley have to be savoured.

Yet as their manager stood with his head in his hands after Per Mertesacker, with the simplest of headers, put Arsenal 3-0 ahead – many Villa fans headed to the exit doors of the world's most famous stadium.

When that goal went in, there was 30 minutes still remaining – with Sherwood opting to bring on midfield enforcer Carlos Sánchez in a bid to prevent any further damage.

### Juggernaut

But Villa were unable to stop the Arsenal juggernaut from the first whistle to the last and when Olivier Giroud swept home a fourth in stoppage time, he wrapped up an historical day for Arsène Wenger's side.

Arsenal are now the only team to have lifted the FA Cup 12 times. The result also ensured Wenger became only the second manager, and the first foreigner, to lift the trophy six times – with Villa great George Ramsey the other man to do so.

Arsenal were electric, with Santi Cazorla and Mesut Özil dominant in midfield.

The Spaniard and the German may not be the biggest or the strongest, but they ran the game with a finesse Villa could never get to grips with.

Even when Sherwood's side did manage to get on the ball, they were bereft of any movement or invention with their passing sloppy and their tackling rash.

A cross from the lively Nacho Monreal was headed back across goal by Alexis Sanchez and,



Aston Villa's Ron Vlaar is dejected during the FA Cup Final at Wembley Stadium

with Villa's defenders failing to react, Walcott fired an unstoppable strike past Shay Given.

Only brilliance from keeper Given and left-back Kieran Richardson, with a vital block, had ensured the men in claret and blue went in at the break just a solitary goal down.

But with an inspirational talk from Sherwood and a positive start to the second period, there was still genuine belief Villa could turn things around.

Sadly, whatever was said at the interval was soon irrelevant after Sanchez scored a goal fitting for a final.

The winger, who now looks a snip at £30m,

picked up the ball 25 yards from goal and fired an unstoppable strike, which dipped and swerved past Given and into the net. It was a world-class finish from a world-class player and when Mertesacker then made it 3-0 everybody knew Villa's 58-year wait for an FA Cup was set to rumble on.

Despite everything, Villa did improve slightly.

Jack Grealish, of whom so much was expected, had a decent appeal for a penalty turned down late on when Héctor Bellerín tugged at his shirt.

While Gabby Agbonlahor had previously seen a penalty appeal waved away after he was tumbled to the ground.

Sherwood was, understandably, left devastated.

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